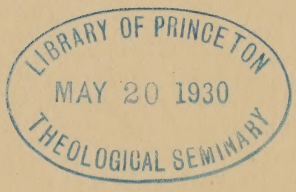
MOORESTOWN AND HER NEIGHBORS

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

By

GEORGE DECOU



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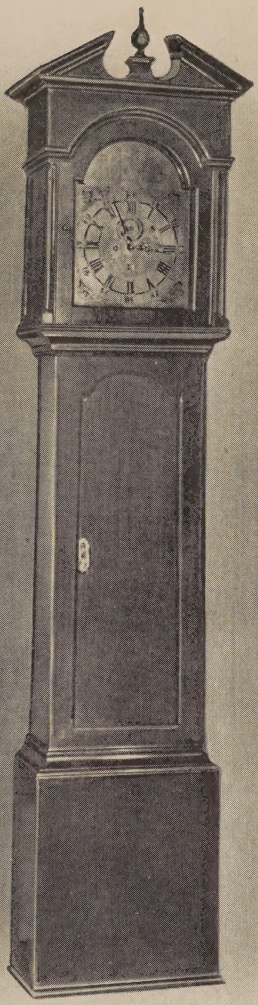

Hollinshead Clock made by Morgan Hollinshead in Moorestown about 1780. "Morgan Hollinshead Chester No. 2," appears on the face of this beautiful old clock.

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By

GEORGE DECOU

Member of the
Burlington County Historical Society
Friends Historical Association

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Foreword

THE writing of these historical sketches of my beautiful home town has been in a large measure a labor of love. Having lived in Moorestown for almost forty years I have watched with interest and pride its growth from a quiet and homelike country village to one of Philadelphia's most attractive suburban communities. The story of Moorestown is lacking in thrills, yet it is not without interest especially to those of us who are descended from the pioneers who settled in the neighborhood during the last two decades of the Seventeenth Century.

My researches have taken me into many homes—the homes of comparative strangers as well as of friends and neighbors—and in all instances a helpful hand has been extended. Old friendships have been strengthened and new friendships made which I believe will be enduring. My thanks are extended to all of these but especially to the following:—David and William H. Roberts, William R. Stackhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Aitken, Dr. and Mrs. Walter W. Gardiner, Mrs. David R. Lippincott, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Evans, Ellwood Hollingshead and the Misses Martha and Mabel Hollinshead, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Coles, Dr. Joseph Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Conrow, Chalkley Matlack, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Stiles, Judge and Mrs. William D. Lippincott, Mrs. Henry C. Herr, John W. Cadbury, Jr. and W. Henry Evans.

Of these the largest measure of thanks is due to William H. Roberts, whose photographs appear on these pages and who has encouraged and helped me in many other ways; to Mr. and Mrs. William R. Stackhouse who welcomed me to their home at all hours and allowed me to use their splendid historical library as freely as though it were my own and

to Gilbert Aitken, whose old records, pamphlets and papers and knowledge of the early history of Moorestown have been exceptionally helpful. I would also like to express my appreciation of the many courtesies extended to me by our Librarians, Miss Severns, Miss Wilmot and Miss Earling and by Miss Scott and Miss Hollinshead of the County Library at Mount Holly.

GEORGE DECOU.

Moorestown, December, 1929.

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Moorestown and Her Neighbors

I

Historical Background

HENRY HUDSON, an English navigator in the employ of the Dutch East India Company, entered the Delaware River during the latter part of August, 1609 in search of a Northwest passage to India but finding the water somewhat shoal turned about and proceeded Northward along the Atlantic Coast. He anchored the "Half-Moon" near Sandy Hook and sent a party of sailors to the shore near where Jersey City is now located. These men probably were the first Europeans to set foot on Jersey soil. Early in September he weighed anchor and passing through the Narrows started on his memorable voyage up the noble river now bearing his name. The Netherlands, by right of his discovery, laid claim to a large territory in America which included New England as far East as Cape Cod, New York as far North as the forty-fifth parallel and all of the present state of New Jersey. The new territory was called "New Netherland" in honor of the mother country. A few Dutch traders settled on Manhattan Island shortly afterwards but the real settlement of New Amsterdam (New York City) did not begin until 1623 when the ship "New Netherland" with a party of Dutch colonists arrived. A small group of Danes or Norwegians, who came over on one of the Dutch vessels, settled on the Western shore of the North River, as it was then called, in about 1618. A small settlement was established on the site of Jersey City which they called Bergen in honor of the capitol of Norway. This was undoubtedly the first European settlement in the state of New Jersey.

In 1623, Captain Cornelius Jacobsen Mey, for whom Cape May was named, entered the Delaware River which the Dutch called South River, with a small company of soldiers and colonists and erected a fort near the mouth of Timber

Creek which enters the Delaware a little below Gloucester. This and other early attempts by the Dutch to colonize the lower Delaware ended in failure probably owing to the hostility of the Indians.

A party of Swedish colonists under command of Peter Minuet in the "King of Calmar" a war vessel and the "Bird Griffin" a small sailing vessel, entered the Delaware in 1638. They settled on the Western shore near Wilmington and purchased a large tract of land from the Indians extending up the river as far as the Falls of the Delaware (Trenton). They named the land New Sweden. John Printz was appointed governor in 1641 and came over with a large body of colonists in 1642 and settled on Tinicum Island which is located in the Delaware about nine miles below Philadelphia. Shortly afterwards Swedish settlements were established on the Eastern shore of the Delaware. Although the Dutch had returned to the Eastern shore, Swedish authority was firmly established on both sides of the river. Suddenly in 1655, Governor Peter Stuyvesant of New Amsterdam with a force of 700 soldiers appeared in the Delaware and the Swedes who were completely surprised and unprepared to resist so large a force surrendered almost without a struggle.

England, however, had never abandoned its claim to this section of the country based on the voyages of John and Sebastian Cabot in 1498. In 1664 an English fleet commanded by Sir Robert Carre entered New York harbor and demanded the surrender of the Dutch. Brave old Governor Stuyvesant stormed and threatened but seeing that resistance was useless wisely surrendered. The Dutch flag was lowered forever in America with the exception of a brief period in 1673.

The permanent settlement of New Jersey by the English began in 1664. In March of that year, King Charles II, ceded a huge tract of land in America, including the present state of New Jersey to his brother, James, Duke of York. Later in the year, the Duke, granted the portion of his

American possessions lying between the Hudson River, Atlantic coast and the Delaware River as far north as the forty-first degree of latitude to Sir George Carteret, Knight and Baronet and John Lord Berkeley, Baron of Stratton as a reward for their loyal services to the Crown during the Civil War. They named the new province Nova Caesarea or New Jersey in honor of Carteret's Island home. The Lords Proprietors framed a Constitution for the new Colony which guaranteed religious and political liberty to all. Philip Carteret a relative of Sir George, was appointed Governor of the new Province and in 1665, he came to America with a small party of colonists and established Elizabethtown which was named in honor of Elizabeth the wife of Sir George Carteret. A small group of Puritans from New Haven, attracted by the liberal character of our first Constitution, settled on the Passaic in 1665 and set up a theocratic form of local government under which none but church members could vote or hold office. The settlement was first called Milford but afterwards changed to Newark.

In 1675 Lord Berkeley apparently tired of his real estate investment in America, sold his half interest in the Province to two English Friends, Edward Byllinge and John Fenwicke for One Thousand Pounds. Byllinge, who evidently furnished most of the money for the transaction, became involved financially and the deed of transfer was made to John Fenwicke in trust for Edward Byllinge. Sharp differences arose between Byllinge and Fenwicke concerning their respective interests in the colony and William Penn was induced to arbitrate the matter. Under his ruling the Province of West Jersey was divided into one hundred parts, proprieties or shares, ten of which were awarded to Fenwicke. The remaining ninety parts were assigned to William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas, as trustees for the benefit of Byllinge's creditors. Fenwicke and a party of colonists arrived on the "Griffin" in 1675 and settled the town of Salem. This was the first permanent

English settlement in West Jersey. An agreement was made by Edward Byllinge, John Fenwicke, William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas on July 1st, 1676, which is known as the Quintipartite Deed, dividing the State into East and West New Jersey by a line running from the eastern side of Little Egg Harbor to the most northern point on the Delaware River. Under this agreement Sir George Carteret became the sole owner of East New Jersey, and William Penn and other Friends of West New Jersey.

The arrival of the "Kent" loaded with 230 English colonists, most of whom were members of the Religious Society of Friends or Quakers as they were usually called, in Sixth month, 1677, marks the beginning of the settlement of Burlington County. For some unknown reason the Kent anchored at the mouth of Raccoon Creek which is nearly opposite Chester. The nine Commissioners representing two groups of Friends, one from London and one from Yorkshire most of whom were creditors of Edward Byllinge, proceeded up the river in row boats to "Chygoes Island" the site of the present city of Burlington. Among the names of these Commissioners we find that of Dr. Daniel Wills, the ancestor of many prominent residents now living in the County. The Commissioners had full authority to purchase land from the Indians and establish a form of government. The Yorkshire Friends selected the land between Rancocas Creek and the Assanpinck at Trenton and the London group from the former stream to Timber Creek below Gloucester. It was their original intention to establish separate towns but as they were drawn closely together during the long voyage from England, they decided to unite in establishing one community. It was too late in the Fall to erect permanent homes and temporary cabins were hastily constructed with the aid of the friendly Indians. Other vessels bearing groups of English Colonists followed the Kent in 1677 and during the next two or three years. Burlington grew rapidly and was a thriving and active community when Philadelphia was established in 1682. Prac-

tically all of the towns and hamlets in Burlington County were founded by settlers who arrived at Burlington on the Kent or on vessels that followed during the next few years.

II

Pioneer Settlers

THE ridge on which the older part of Moorestown now stands was known as the "Camel's Back" by the forest rangers and hunters who occasionally wandered through this section of the County. Geologists tell us that in the early ages the Jersey Pines were separated from the mainland by a large body of water known as the Pensauken Sound or Submergence and as this section of the county was then under water, it is possible that the ridge appeared as an Island.

The building of the old Salem Road in 1682 which followed the general course of Main Street through Moorestown, undoubtedly influenced our pioneer ancestors in locating their homes in this locality. William Biddle, who arrived in 1681 and settled on the Delaware near Kinkora Station a few miles below Bordentown, was the first owner of the land on which Moorestown now stands. On January 22, 1677, William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas trustees for Edward Byllinge, conveyed one share[1] of land in West Jersey to "William Biddle, shoemaker, of Bishop's Gate, London, Thomas Ollive, haberdasher of Wellingboro and Daniel Wills, practicioner in chymestry of Northampton." Under a Deed in Trust dated April 4th, 1677, Thomas Ollive and Dr. Daniel Wills conveyed to William Biddle "one-half of the tract granted to both parties." Part of the land held under this grant was located by William Biddle along the ridge from Borton's Landing Road on the east to Pensauken Creek on the west. William

[1]Before the settlement of West Jersey a share of land in the new Province evidently meant a one-hundredth interest in the Province. In 1681, the West Jersey Assembly passed a law authorizing the division of West Jersey into ten Tenths. Under this law each Tenth was to have its share of frontage on the Delaware River and extend "backwards" so that it would contain 64,000 acres. A share of land, therefore, which was one-tenth of a Tenth, would contain approximately 6400 acres.

Biddle conveyed the western portion of this tract to Robert Clinton of Surrey, England in October 1679. Clinton sold it to Thos. Martin of Lynehouse Parish on May 12th, 1682. It is evident that neither Robert Clinton or Thomas Martin ever came to America as the latter sold part of his holdings to Dr. Thomas Rodman of Rhode Island in 1686 through his brother James Martin of Burlington, New Jersey to whom Power of Attorney previously had been given. The tract conveyed to Thomas Rodman was located in West Moorestown and contained a little over 500 acres. The lane extending down into the valley west of the Friends Meeting Houses was the eastern boundary and Second Street to Church Street thence to Charles W. Stokes' residence at the top of the hill on Haddonfield Road marked approximately the northern and northwestern line.

The eastern portion of the Biddle tract containing 475 acres of upland and 25 acres of meadow, was conveyed to John Rodman "Chyrurgeon" brother of Thomas Rodman on April 4th, 1686. It joined the Thomas Rodman tract on the west, the northern boundary being about where Oak Avenue is now located. From a point on Oak Avenue a little west of Chester Avenue, the line extended in a northeastern direction to Thomas Hooton's line (now the John C. Dudley farm on the Westfield-Hartford-Road), thence in a southeasterly direction to the John Hollinshead tract near the junction of Borton's Landing and Mt. Holly Roads. Although the western end of Moorestown was called Rodmantown in the early days, I find no record of either of the brothers having lived in this vicinity.

The sound of the pioneer's axe was first heard in the vicinity of Moorestown in the closing months of 1682 or possibly early in 1683. Burlington City which was established in 1677, five years before Philadelphia, had already become an active community and the advance guard of that sturdy band of pioneer settlers, who converted the wilderness of Burlington County into a land of homes, had already located plantations on the Northampton River now

known as Rancocas Creek. John and Sarah Roberts, William and Mary Matlack and Timothy and Rachael Hancock were the first English colonists to settle in the neighborhood of Moorestown. John and Sarah Roberts arrived on the "Kent" in 1677 and Timothy Hancock and his sister Mary, an attractive young girl 16 years of age, followed on the "Paradice" in 1681. William Matlack was a carpenter and doubtless was an exceedingly busy man as he helped to build the first homes in Burlington, yet he seems to have found time to call on Mary, who is known in history as Mary Matlack.

Before leaving England, John Roberts, yeoman, purchased one-sixteenth of a share of land in West Jersey from Thomas Ollive and Dr. Daniel Wills, the location of which was to be decided after his arrival in this country. On November 14th, 1682, Daniel Leeds surveyed 267 acres for John Roberts on the north branch of Pensauken Creek. This tract extended from the north to the south branch of the creek and Camden Pike now passes directly through part of the farm at Maple Shade. The Roberts monument on the south side of the Pike just west of the bridge over the north branch marks the approximate location of the first homestead. According to family tradition they lived for a while in a cave or dugout close to a spring of water on the bank of the creek. The so-called caves of the early settlers in some instances were dug-outs or rough shelters constructed in the side of a hill or bank. They usually faced the south and consequently were protected from the keen north winds and northeastern storms. Our ancestors who were not accustomed to living in a temperature of 75 or 80 degrees doubtless were quite comfortable in them until their log homes were erected which in turn were replaced by more pretentious frame or brick dwellings. In some instances, doubtless, the caves were constructed similar to our cellars. Daniel Pastorius in his "Geographical Description of Pennsylvania" describes the caves on the bank of the Delaware at Philadelphia which were similar

to his first home in America as follows:—"The caves of that time were holes digged in the ground, covered with earth a matter of five or six feet deep, ten or twelve feet wide and about twenty feet long; whereof neither the sides nor the floors have been planked. Herein we lived more comfortably than many nowadays in their painted and wainscoted palaces."

The original Matlack homestead was located on Pensauken Creek above the Roberts plantation near the site of the Club House of the Valley Brook Country Club. This farm which contained one hundred acres extended back to the South branch of the Pensauken and a portion of it still remains in the Matlack family. The one hundred acres surveyed for Timothy Hancock joined the Matlack farm on the west and the two homes were located on the bank of the creek quite near each other. William Matlack purchased the adjoining farm from his father-in-law, Timothy Hancock, in 1695. The first burying ground in the neighborhood of Moorestown was located on the bank of the creek on the Hancock farm. There is no evidence of this burying ground at the present time and unless the spot is marked in the near future, its location will soon be lost. The Pensauken at that time seems to have been a much deeper stream than at present as there was a landing on the Hancock farm from which the farmers shipped their produce to Philadelphia in flat bottomed boats.

In December, 1684, one hundred acres were surveyed on the Pensauken Creek adjoining the Roberts tract on the west for William Clarke and at about the same time 650 acres for John Clarke and John Rudderow, extending to the forks of the creek. A little later, 475 acres of this tract was resurveyed for John Rudderow. The Rudderow tract was located between the two branches nearest to their junction at Fork Landing. Robert Stiles, the ancestor of the Burlington County branch of that family, settled on the Pensauken at Maple Shade at an early date. I am not in position, however, to state definitely when the first survey

was made. Their farm was located north of Camden Pike and the street now known as Stiles Avenue leads directly to the site of the original homestead.

The pioneers' axe was also heard during the early years on the south side of Rancocas Creek. John Hollinshead was undoubtedly the first settler in that vicinity. I cannot say definitely when the first survey of land was made for him but I am of the opinion it was prior to 1680. The first and second pages of "Revell's Book of Surveys" which record the surveys of land in West Jersey prior to 1680 are missing. A Deed dated Eleventh month 10th, 1683, refers to John Hollinshead of Northampton River[2] showing that he had already settled in that location. There is a record under date of Fourth month, 1689 of a survey for John Hollinshead of 1150 acres on the south side of the creek "adjoining and including his original settlement." The Hollinshead tract was located about two miles above Bridgeboro and the homestead stood on the bank of the creek near the dividing line between Moorestown and Delran Townships. The family conducted a ferry at this place for many years and in the early days the locality was known as Hollinshead's Ferry. The old Salem Road known later as the King's Highway crossed the creek at this point. The plantation extended back almost to the eastern edge of Moorestown as it is today.

The Hooton tract comprising 500 acres was located on the creek a little above Bridgeboro and joined the Hollinshead tract on the east. The record of the Hooton survey dated Eleventh month 15th, 1682, reads as follows: "For Thomas Hooton 500 acres abutting on Northampton River from a black oak marked for a corner at the mouth of a small creek over against Thomas Ollive, southwest by south 165 chains (a trifle over two miles) for a second corner, then southeast by east 31 chains for a third corner next to the land surveyed for Noel Mew." The phrase "over against" used in

[2]Rancocas Creek was usually called Northampton River by the early English settlers.

Cox's Tavern, one of the early Inns of Moorestown.

The Old Buttonwood showing Coles' Hotel first known as the William Penn.

The Old Homestead on the "Zelley Farm" on Stanwick Avenue now owned by Lester Collins.

"The Schooley House" (in center), an interesting Revolutionary landmark.

this and other early surveys undoubtedly meant on the opposite side of the stream. The Hooton tract extended back to the farm on Westfield-Hartford Road now owned by John C. Dudley.

An Act was passed by the West Jersey Assembly in 1682 "forbidding any person from holding more than forty perches (220 yards) frontage on a river or navigable stream for each and every one hundred acres except it fall upon a point so that it cannot be avoided." This gave Thomas Hooton considerably more than a half-mile frontage on the Rancocas. It is interesting to note that another Act passed at the same time forbade any person taking up land on both sides of a navigable stream without the consent of the Commissioners.

John Borton, the founder of the Borton family in Burlington County, settled on the south side of Rancocas Creek at Borton's Landing in 1682. This tract containing 200 acres extended back to the present village of Masonville.

In 1689 Thomas "ffrench" the founder of the French family in Burlington County, who had located on the northern side of Rancocas Creek in 1684, had surveyed for him 621 acres on "Pomsoking" Creek next to the plantation of Thomas Wallis. This tract was located north and northwest of Moorestown and extended from about where Church Street now runs to Pensauken Creek. If Second Street continued in a direct line to the Creek it would mark the approximate southeastern line of the French holdings. In 1694, Thomas French deeded 300 acres of this plantation to his son Thomas "in consideration of the natural affection, good will and kindness which he beareth to his beloved son." A considerable portion of this tract remained in the French family until about the middle of the Nineteenth Century.

On June 10, 1692, Dr. John Rodman, conveyed his tract in East Moorestown to John Adams of Flushing, L. I. in exchange for a dwelling house and "parcel of land." John Adams evidently settled on this tract and in 1693 recon-

veyed the western portion of the plantation which extended to where the Burlington County Trust Company now stands to his son, James. James Adams and Esther his wife, transferred one acre of this farm located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Chester Avenue to the Society of Friends in 1700. The eastern portion of the Adams plantation was inherited by his son Thomas. Thomas Adams sold this farm containing 237 acres to Samuel Atkinson, son of Thomas Atkinson of Bucks County, Penna. in 1719. On December 4th, 1722, Samuel Atkinson purchased 200 acres adjoining his plantation from Robert and Benjamin Field. It would appear from the above records that John Adams and his sons, James and Thomas, were the first substantial citizens to erect homes on the land on which Moorestown now stands.

III

Early Days in Moorestown

LIKE Topsy, our beautiful home town "just growed." History does not record, insofar as I can learn, the name or names of Moorestown's first residents or state definitely where their homes were situated. Very likely as stated in some old papers, they were located in the neighborhood of the famous Indian Spring still flowing on the hillside in the rear of the old Barcklow House, 274 W. Main Street, or possibly in the eastern end of the town near the spring further down in the valley a little east of Stanwick Avenue. Tradition and some old accounts indicate that little settlements were established in the vicinity of these springs before the central part of the town was settled but I can find no record of the names of these pioneers or the exact location of their cabins. I am, however, of the opinion that Moorestown did not start to develop as a village much before 1700, when the first Friends Meeting House was erected. Its growth during the first one hundred years was exceedingly slow. According to Gordon's Gazetteer and History of New Jersey published in 1834, there were only fifty or sixty dwellings in Moorestown at that time. Barber and Howe's History of New Jersey published in 1847, states that there were about one hundred homes in Moorestown and vicinity.

Tradition also says that the settlement at the eastern end of the ridge in the early days was called "Chestertown" and at the western end called "Rodmantown." Some records, however, indicate that the entire village at one time was known by the latter name. These names were dropped very early in the Eighteenth Century and the village became known as Chester. The name Moorestown apparently was not applied to the community until the middle or latter part of the Eighteenth Century. Smith's History, published at Burlington in 1765 refers to the village as

Chester or "Moore's Town." The records of the Friends Meeting until long after the Revolutionary War, called the village Chester. The Minutes of Chester Preparative Meeting show that a meeting was held at "Chester" on Third month 8th, 1791, at which a standing committee was appointed to have charge of the brick school at the junction of the roads leading to Evesham and Moorestown. A deed recorded in 1799 referred to the village of Chester also called Moorestown. These records indicate that the name Moorestown gradually replaced Chester by usage. I am of the opinion that the name Moorestown was officially applied to the village in 1802 when the Post Office was established.

Gilbert Aitken of Moorestown has a deed in his possession executed in 1745 by Thomas and Elizabeth Moor of Moorfield, Township of Chester, to Timothy Matlack of Haddonfield for a certain plot of land purchased from Francis Hogsett in 1732. This is the first record that I have discovered of the fact that for a while at least our town was known as Moorfield which in my judgment is a much prettier name than Moorestown. On an old map published in 1777 and now in the Public Library, Atlantic City, the name of our town appears as Moorsfield or Moorstown and Pensauken Creek as Moor's Creek.

Moorestown was named in honor of Thomas Moore who was our first tavern keeper as well as our first realtor. Very little is known of this enterprising man except that he married Elizabeth, daughter of James and Esther Adams and that he died in 1760 and was supposed to have been buried in the Friends' Graveyard in Moorestown. He was undoubtedly a Friend as James and Esther Adams were prominent members and in those days it was a disownable offense to marry "out of Meeting" and consequently very rarely occurred. As far as I can learn Thomas Moore has no descendants now living in the neighborhood of Moorestown. In 1732 he purchased 33 acres on the northern side of King's Highway (now Main Street) extending from the

Friends' Burying Ground at Chester Avenue to Locust Street and northward to the middle of Second Street. This tract was subdivided and sold for private homes or business sites. His historic Inn stood directly on King's Highway at or very near the northwest corner of Main and Union Streets. According to tradition it was a small and unpretentious building. Ellwood Hollingshead informed me that his father tore down the building that stood on this corner at the time that the present building the home of the late Uriah and Mary Borton was erected and that it was then said to be the building in which the Moore family lived and kept tavern. Some very ancient coins were found in a crack back of the mantelpiece which proved that the building was very old.

In 1700 the first Friends' Meeting House was erected at the northwest corner of Main Street and Chester Avenue which indicated that the village of Chester was then established and was recognized as the future centre of the business and intellectual activities of the neighborhood. The village at that time probably consisted of a few farm houses and homes along the Highway from Stanwick Avenue to Locust Street. Chester Avenue was not laid out until about 1720 and in the early Meeting records was called Meeting House Lane.

The earliest record of Chester Township in which Moorestown was located prior to 1922 that I have found, was dated May 26th, 1692. A resolution was passed at a Town Meeting held on that date imposing a fine of three shillings per day on all who neglected to serve "att mending of roads and highways." A Town Meeting was also held on March 18th, 1693, for the purpose of electing a Collector and two Assessors. "Thomas ffrench" whose farm was located north of Second Street and "John Rudderoe" and James Sherwyn were chosen "Sessors." The Rudderows lived between the two branches of Pensauken Creek near their junction. John Rudderow also seems to have served as "clarck" of the Township at that time. These early Town Meetings were

held at the home of farmers in the neighborhood of Moorestown. The earliest records generally referred to the Township of Chester, alias Pomsoking or Penisauken and I am quite certain that the Township was first known as Pensauken. The name Pensauken which is spelled in so many ways in the old records is derived from an Indian tribe of that name whose principal village was located between the two branches of the creek near if not on the Roberts plantation. Chester Township was not incorporated until 1698.

The old Buttonwood now standing on Main Street next to the Burlington County Trust Company, originally stood on King's Highway quite near the first Quaker Meeting House as stated on the handsome bronze tablet erected by the Colonial Dames Society at their Convention held in Moorestown on October 17th, 1929. The first Meeting House erected early in 1700 is supposed to have been built of logs. It was burned in 1720 and replaced by a larger stone building. Many famous Quakers as they journeyed along the old Highway tarried for a while in Moorestown and preached in these old Meeting Houses. Doubtless John Woolman, the greatest of American Quakers, often attended Meeting in the old stone Meeting House. John Woolman whose Journal was one of the first books selected by Dr. Eliot for his famous "Five-Foot Shelf of Books" was born on the bank of the Rancocas about four miles from Moorestown and lived for a number of years in Mount Holly following the trade of tailor. I love to picture him in my mind as he rode in town along the old Highway and sedately walked into the Meeting House. Doubtless his appearance caused something of a stir as he entered clad in unbleached homespun and wearing an undyed beaver hat. Possibly the young people smiled at his quaint appearance and it is more than likely that their parents felt just a little uneasy as some of them were slave holders and Woolman's message was very apt to be a powerful plea for their liberation. John Woolman was one of the first Friends to be con-

vinced that the holding of our fellowmen in bondage was not in harmony with the teaching of Christ.

Cole's Hotel, formerly known as the William Penn which stood on the site of the present home of the Burlington County Trust Company, was frequently the scene of great activity prior to the building of the railroad in 1867 when the stage coach was the only public conveyance between Moorestown and Philadelphia. The original building which was part of the building torn down in 1926 was erected early in the Nineteenth Century.

Cox's Tavern, which stood a little east of the residence of Mrs. Joshua Borton adjoining the William H. Matlack Company store at the northeast corner of Main Street and Chester Avenue, was the oldest hotel in the eastern end of Moorestown. John Cox purchased a small plot of ground on King's Highway extending east of Chester Avenue from Nehemiah Haines in 1745 and shortly afterwards erected the Tavern that was to become famous in the early history of Moorestown. He was town clerk for many years and the Town Meetings were frequently held at his Tavern prior to the erection of the present Town Hall in 1812. Cox's Tavern was the headquarters of one of the rival stages that ran between Mount Holly and Philadelphia and doubtless the arrival and departure of the stage was the most exciting event of the day. A fine old grandfather's clock that stood for many years in this old building may be seen in the attractive home of the Moorestown Trust Company.

Moorestown has been from the beginning a town of homes rather than an industrial community. Matlack's and Hooton's Saw and Grist Mills were the first to be established in this vicinity. They were located on Hooton's Run formerly known as Wagon Bridge Run, which arises east of Moorestown and flows in a southwesterly direction about a half mile south of the Ridge. The Hooton mill stood on this run a little east of the Marlton Road (now Church Street) and was in operation until about 1850 when it was torn down. The Matlack mill was located near

Pleasant Valley Avenue and was undoubtedly the older of the two and in all probability the oldest grist mill near Moorestown.

The tanning business was one of the leading industries in Moorestown in the early days, doubtless because of the abundance of Oak and Hemlock bark to be obtained in the neighboring forests. There was a large tannery on the northern side of Main Street where the Methodist Episcopal Church now stands which extended back to the present line of Second Street. Perhaps the oldest tannery in the community was located between Main and Second Street, west of Union. The buildings belonging to this tannery were not entirely removed until Albert C. Heulings bought the property and erected attractive homes which are still standing. "Pinehurst" the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Basil Hubert Cooper on Haddonfield Road was owned by John Lippincott, a tanner and currier in the early years of the Nineteenth Century. The tan yard was located a little east of the present homestead. It was afterwards conducted by George Matlack, the buildings being destroyed by fire about 1828.

The nursery and fruit business was also established at a very early date. Samuel Coles, whose plantation was located at Colestown, was supposed to have been the first to have given attention to the growing of fruit trees as a business. Joseph French and John Perkins established the Fairview Nurseries in West Moorestown in 1815. Joseph French died in 1825 and John Perkins formed a partnership with Edward French. This partnership was dissolved about nine years later and John Perkins purchased Pinehurst Farm, then known as the "Tan Yard" Farm and for many years conducted a nursery specializing in ornamental trees. On an old map published in 1875 the triangle bounded by Haddonfield Road, Camden Pike and Pleasant Valley Avenue appears as a forest of evergreens and doubtless many of the beautiful trees on "Evergreen Lawn" now owned by Mrs. T. H. Dudley Perkins, were originally in the

John Perkins nursery. The Collins' Nurseries (A. J. Collins and Sons) on Pleasant Valley Avenue, which are the largest nurseries in this section of the State, were established in 1860 by John S. Collins, father and grandfather of the present owners. The Samuel C. DeCou Nursery on Pleasant Valley Avenue, now part of the Collins' Nurseries, was established by Thomas C. Andrews, father of Clayton Andrews of Moorestown about 1862.

The fruit industry which is now the largest and most important industry in the vicinity of Moorestown was established at a very early date. Early in the Nineteenth Century the farmers hauled peaches to New Brunswick or Perth Amboy from which points they were shipped by boat to New York where according to the old records they brought from $1.00 to $4.00 per bushel. It is interesting to compare the old method of transportation to the modern as some of the large trucks which today carry peaches direct to the New York market will hold 340 bushels or approximately 510 baskets.

I regret that I cannot state definitely when the first brick yard was established near Moorestown. The present yards at Maple Shade, owned by the William Graham Brick Manufacturing Company, were conducted by John Moffit and Son in the 1880's. They were undoubtedly established at a much earlier date. Shark's teeth and sea fossils of various kinds are still dug up in the clay pits showing that this section was under water in pre-historic times. There was formerly a brick yard a little west of Church Street and north of Hooton's Run which was established by Caleb Poinsett, father of our townsman, Emmor Poinsett, in 1846. This brick yard was conducted by the Poinsett family until 1887.

IV

Old Roads and Indian Trails

THE old Salem Road, better known as the King's Highway connecting the English settlements at Burlington and Salem, was apparently the first road to be laid out in Burlington County. It was authorized by an Act of the West Jersey Assembly on September 25th, 1681 and ten men from Burlington and ten from Salem were appointed to carry out the undertaking. Work was started on the road during the Spring of 1682. The Act called for a highway six rods in width but as there were very few if any wagons in the County at that time, it was probably little more than a bridle path during the first few years at least. Its route was very circuitous and according to tradition the builders followed the Indian trails in many places. Land was plentiful in those days and most of our early roads followed the line of least resistance.

The road crossed Rancocas Creek near the dividing line of Moorestown and Delran Townships about two miles above Bridgeboro at a place known in the early days as Hollinshead's Ferry and later as Hackney's Dock. The original Hollinshead homestead stood near this spot and for many years the family conducted a ferry across the creek to a place now known as Adams's Wharf. William Downan, an aged man now living in Bridgeboro, pointed out to the writer the exact spot where the road started on the south bank of the creek. Mr. Downan's boyhood days were spent on the "Paul Heaton" Farm through which the road passed and at that time the road bed could be clearly traced. The road passed to the east of the Heaton house which is still standing on the Creek Road not far from the Township line. Although Mr. Downan kindly traced the course of the old road from the creek to the Moorestown and Mt. Holly Road, I will, in describing its route through Moorestown, quote from an article written by Judge Clay-

ton Lippincott and published in a County paper during the latter part of the Nineteenth Century.

> "Starting from an old landing on Rancocas Creek on or near the line between the Townships of Chester (now Moorestown) and Delran, from thence the road crossed the farm belonging to the heirs of Paul Heaton, went a little south of the residence of James McElwee (now Fred Peterson) and Enoch Dudley (now Hansell Lippincott) crossed Hartford Road and followed the Road by Page's School House (sometimes called Poplar Grove School House) now a tenant house on the farm, owned by the New Jersey Orchards' Association, to the end of Josiah Pancoast's farm (now owned by Lester Collins) thence on nearly a straight line to the toll gate on the Mount Holly Road, thence its general course was where the road now runs passing through Moorestown."

The neighborhood where the road turns sharply to the west near the Borton Landing Road was known as the "North Bend" until quite recently.

The Highway closely followed the southern edge of the Ridge on which the oldest part of Moorestown now stands. A little east of the Town Hall it veered to the south and passed along the ridge where the Friends' Home and the eastern end of the Community House now stand and to the north of the old Smith mansion, No. 12 High Street, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cadbury, Jr. It passed to the south of the homes on the south side of Main Street west of Church Street and directly in front of the old Barcklow House located at No. 274 West Main Street and rejoined the present course of Main Street not far from Locust. Near "Fairview" the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Stokes, located at the top of the hill on Haddonfield Road, it bore to the right and crossed Forest Brook Farm about 200 feet south of the homestead now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. Thornton Hollinshead and a little to the north of the old brick tenement house still standing

on the farm. The course of the old road can still be traced through the woods on Forest Brook Farm by a depression in the ground about thirty feet in width. It crossed Pensauken Creek where the bridge now stands on the Lenola Road and from thence over the hill to the north of the brick school house now a tenement house on the Elizabeth Matlack farm. It passed south of the old Matlack homestead now standing at the northeast corner of School House Lane and Fellowship Road and from thence followed the general course of Lindley H. Gardiner's lane on the Chalkley Matlack farm, passing between his residence and the old Reuben H. Matlack blacksmith shop, thence down his back lane to the south branch of Pensauken Creek.

The original bridge stood a little above the present bridge and crossed the old channel, the course of which can be readily traced. Asa Matlack's saw mill famous in the early days stood just above the old bridge. Leaving the creek the road passed to the east of "Thorndale" the home of the late William T. Lippincott and thence to the Colestown Cemetery. The brick walk leading to the monument marking the spot where St. Mary's Church originally stood, lead to the old Highway. King's Highway was resurveyed in 1747 and straightened in some places but its course through Moorestown was not changed until the laying out of the present road from Mt. Holly to Camden in 1794. The Haddonfield Road as it is today was surveyed in 1796 and doubtless the old Highway was used very little after these new and more direct routes were established.

An interesting old road known as the Ferry or Market road branched from the King's Highway near the old Matlack homestead at the intersection of the Fellowship Road and School House Lane. It passed through the woods on the Chalkley Matlack farm thence to the south of Merchantville and lead direct to Spicer's Ferry which crossed Cooper's Creek near the present railroad bridge and thence to Cooper's Ferry on the Delaware. Chalkley Matlack informed me that in his boyhood days the course of this road

could be clearly traced through the woods on his farm. The road was used extensively by the farmers in the neighborhood in sending their produce to the Philadelphia market prior to the opening of the present road from Moorestown to Camden.

The Riverton Road (Chester Avenue) called "The Great Road" or "Meeting House Lane" in the early Meeting records, was undoubtedly the second road of importance to be laid out in this neighborhood. It was surveyed in about 1720 doubtless for the convenience of the Friends' families who lived near the river. Prior to the opening of this Highway, the only road leading from the Delaware River to Moorestown followed an Indian trail that started at the river bank near the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Taylor, a little above Riverton and crossing King's Highway at its highest point skirted the Mount at Mount Laurel and passed on through the pines to the seashore. This trail was used very extensively by the Indians especially in the Spring when they made their annual pilgrimage to the seashore to feast on fish, oysters and clams. The section of this path between the King's Highway and the River was used as a public road in the early days although apparently it was not officially surveyed. There is evidence of the foundations of a house in the woods on Westfield Road now owned by Edward S. Harmer adjoining the Armstrong estate which may have stood on this old road.

On Tenth month 30th, 1761, a road two rods in width was surveyed from the south side of King's Highway "at a black oak on Ephraim Haines' land" to the Evesham Meeting House (Mount Laurel) "connecting the Great Road from Burlington to Salem and the Great Road from Mount Holly to Haddonfield." Petit's Lane, which runs down into the valley east of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Cadbury, 260 East Main Street, is part of this road which followed the Indian trail referred to above. It was used

until the present straight road from Moorestown to Mount Laurel was surveyed in 1796.

The Great Road from Mount Holly to Haddonfield laid out in 1765 according to a paper written by Judge Clayton Lippincott, crossed the south branch of Rancocas Creek about 200 yards above the present railroad bridge and passed to the south of Darnell's mills (now Union Mills) and north of the Mount at Mount Laurel, thence through Evesboro (Green Tree) to Haddonfield, crossing the Marlton Pike near the old toll gate. This road was used extensively until 1799 when the present more direct route through Mount Laurel and Evesboro was laid out. Ezra Engle, whose old home was located at Darnell's Mills, informed me that in his boyhood days the route of this old road which crossed his farm could be readily traced. The main wing of the British Army on its retreat from Philadelphia in June, 1778, passed over this old road to Mount Holly on its way to Freehold where the battle of Monmouth Courthouse was fought a few days later. Tradition says that this old road followed an Indian trail leading from the Delaware River through Mount Holly to the neighborhood of Shrewsbury and Middletown.

It is more than likely that George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, traveled over this trail in 1672 on his journey from New Castle, Delaware to Long Island and New England. Quoting from his Journal "he traveled sometimes a whole day through the wilderness without seeing a man or woman, house or dwelling place and their entertainment was mostly from the Indians who treated them kindly." Some are of the opinion that he followed the trail near the bank of the Delaware River through Bordentown but this is scarcely possible as there were a number of Swedish and Dutch families along the eastern bank of the Delaware as far up the river as Bordentown. He could hardly have followed this trail without seeing "a man or woman, house or dwelling place." On his return journey, Fox and his companions spent one night in Burlington at

Peter Jegous' deserted tavern that stood on the bank of the Delaware at the mouth of Assiscunck Creek. The next day, according to his Journal, they crossed the Delaware to Matiniconk Island (now Burlington Island) and thence to the Pennsylvania shore. An old road branched from the Great Road to which we have been referring at Darnell's Mills joining the old Salem Road leading from Burlington to Moorestown where Aubrey Walton's farm is now located about one mile east of Moorestown. As the present road from Mount Holly was not laid out until 1794, this must have been the regular route from Moorestown to Mount Holly in the early days.

In an old paper written by Judge Clayton Lippincott who died in 1892, I find the record of a road laid out in 1727 from the King's Highway to Fork Landing. This road ran between the farms of Thomas Ford and Nathan Middleton. No town was mentioned in the survey but as Nathan Middleton's farm was located north of the railroad and west of Chester Avenue, I assume that the road started at the Highway in east Moorestown. Thomas Ford's farm joined the Middleton farm on the north.

In 1768 a road was laid out from Se-ne-men-sing (Cinnaminson) to the Great Road leading from Moorestown to Haddonfield which undoubtedly refers to the King's Highway. This road began at a Buttonwood tree near the Delaware River between the plantations of James and Elias Toy, whose farms were located at Palmyra and joined the King's Highway at the bridge over Pensauken Creek southwest of Moorestown. It is now known as the Lenola Road leading from Palmyra through Lenola to Fellowship. S. Thornton Hollinshead recently resurveyed this road as far as the bridge over the Pensauken referred to above.

An old map published in 1860 shows that a number of our streets formerly bore different names than at present. Church Street north of Main, which was laid out early in the Nineteenth Century, was then called Fork Landing Road and south of Main Street, the Bodine Road. Third

Street was known as Willow Street and Chestnut Street as Broadway. Stanwick Avenue, which lead to the Fair Grounds located diagonally opposite the present Stanwick Station, was called Fair Ground Avenue. This map also showed that there were no streets running east and west north of the railroad. I trust that a future map of the Township will show that the original name, the King's Highway, will have been restored to Main Street, the historic thoroughfare of our town.

V

Landmarks

THE fine old Buttonwood standing in the Friends' Burying Ground at the northwest corner of Main Street and Chester Avenue near the handsome new home of the Burlington County Trust Company is undoubtedly our most cherished land mark. It is the only living thing in Moorestown today that witnessed the passing of the British troops on those historic days in June, 1778. It stood on King's Highway and many noted men and women have passed beneath its boughs as they rode or walked along the historic old road. This tree was set out by Henry Warrington, the progenitor of the Warrington family in Burlington County in 1740 and used by him as a hitching post when he attended Meeting in the old stone Meeting House nearby. It was a good sized sapling when planted and is now undoubtedly about 200 years of age. It measures sixteen feet three inches in circumference, three feet above ground. A bronze tablet with the following inscription was placed on the tree by the Colonial Dames Society of New Jersey at the time of their Convention held in Moorestown on October 17th, 1929:

> "This tree planted on King's Highway in 1740 stands near the site of the original Friends' Meeting House, the first place of public worship in the community."

Our Historic Oak Tree—The beautiful white Oak standing at the southwest corner of the Community House yard, is about 145 years old. It was referred to in the deed transferring the property to Thomas Ewing in 1804 as a "good sized sapling." The first Methodist Church or Meeting House as it was called in those days, was erected in 1815 and stood almost beneath its branches in the yard of the adjoining property on the west. The old tree is cherished

by all Moorestonians as a splendid specimen of our native forests.

THE ZELLEY HOUSE—There are a number of homes now standing in or near Moorestown that were erected prior to the Revolutionary War. The old homestead standing on the "Zelley Farm" on Stanwick Avenue now owned by Lester Collins, is undoubtedly the oldest of these. This farm was in the possession of the Zelley family for several generations and the homestead is still known locally as the "Zelley" house. The date stone on the southeastern end of the building is plainly marked "G. H. 1721." I regret that I cannot state who the letters "G. H." stand for. One writer suggests that George Hollinshead built the house shortly after his marriage to Ann Curran in 1716, but as the family records show that they settled near Cape May this can hardly be correct. I cannot find that the farm was ever owned by one of that name.

The plantation undoubtedly came into the possession of the Atkinson family at a very early date. Samuel Atkinson purchased 237 acres from Thomas Adams in 1719 and 200 additional acres from Benjamin Field in 1722. The Adams farm was part of the Dr. John Rodman tract that extended along the ridge in East Moorestown and the Field plantation joined it on the north. The "Zelley" farm was undoubtedly included in one of these purchases, probably the latter. Samuel Atkinson conveyed the farm to his son, Samuel, in 1764 and he in turn sold it to Isaac Dudley, great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Caroline Zelley Lippincott, in 1782.

Mrs. Lippincott, who was born in the old house, told me many interesting things about the home of her childhood. Zelley Avenue was originally the lane. It made a sharp turn to the right near Central Avenue and led directly to the house.

Her father, Chalkley Zelley, who also was born in the old homestead, often told her in her childhood days that an old road passed between their home and the barn which led

to Bridgeboro. This road is supposed to have followed an Indian trail. The private burying ground of the Dudley family located in the rear of the old house, has been abandoned for many years but its location is plainly marked by an iron fence which surrounds it.

THE ROBERTS HOMESTEAD—The old brick house on Lester Collins' farm on the Lenola Road about three-quarters of a mile east of the Haddonfield Road, has a most interesting history. It was built in 1736 by John Roberts, son of John and Sarah Roberts, who settled on the north branch of Pensauken Creek near Maple Shade in 1683. The letters, "J. R." and the figures "17-6" may be seen on the end next to the road, the figure 3 having been obliterated when the present window was placed in the wall. This old home known as "Elmwood" remained in the Roberts family until about 1860, when it was sold to Jonathan G. Williams, whose wife, Susan Roberts Williams, was a direct descendant of John and Sarah Roberts. The house is built of blue end bricks, which according to family tradition were brought from England. I do not question the truth of this or any other particular tradition but I am convinced that comparatively few bricks were imported from England as the brick making industry was established in West Jersey at a very early date. The West Jersey Assembly passed an Act in 1683, regulating the size and quality of bricks manufactured within its jurisdiction, which indicates that the industry had already been established. Bricks were required to be "no less than 2¾" in thickness, 4½" in breadth and 9½" in length." Two inspectors were appointed to see that the bricks were of the proper size and properly baked.

David Roberts of Moorestown, whose great grandfather, Joseph Roberts, lived in the property at the time of the Revolutionary War, has in his possession a fine old secretary that stood in the house in June, 1778, when part of the British Army passed along King's Highway on its way to New York. The Hessian soldiers entered the house and

finding the secretary locked endeavored to pry it open with their bayonets. The marks of the bayonets may plainly be seen on this interesting old desk. There is an interesting tradition in the Roberts family that their great grandmother, Susanna Roberts, made butter in this old house for George Washington and his family when they lived in Philadelphia. The house is pleasantly located on high ground commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country and could easily be converted into a very attractive colonial residence. It is to be regretted that it has not remained in the Roberts family as it is the oldest building now standing in the community erected by the first or second generation of the pioneer settlers.

THE SMITH MANSION—This old homestead located at No. 12 High Street, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cadbury, Jr., historically speaking, is the most interesting house in Moorestown. It stands on the first tract of land surveyed for English settlers in Moorestown Township. The western part, which is much the older, was undoubtedly built long before the Revolutionary War. The interior construction of this section, especially the hand hewn beams and joist that may be seen in the cellar indicate great antiquity. Years ago paper stamps were seen on these old timbers and according to tradition, they were British stamps issued at the time of the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765. If so, they had no significance from a historical standpoint as the famous Stamp Tax applied only to commercial and legal documents, parchment, writing paper, etc. A paper which I have in my possession written by Judge Clayton Lippincott, who was a highly respected citizen of Moorestown, states that the eastern end was built by Edward Harris, who purchased the property from the executors of Richard Smith in 1798. Judge Lippincott could not state with certainty when or by whom the western end was erected but was of the opinion that it was the second house that stood on the premises. This probably was true as there was a house on the farm when Joshua Humphries

"The Smith Mansion." Historically speaking the most interesting old home in Moorestown.

"The Barcklow House." The frame end was standing at the time of the Revolutionary War.

The Hollinshead Homestead on Forest Brook Farm. Erected by Edward French in 1770.

The Old Haines Homestead on Pensauken Creek now the Club House of the Valley Brook Country Club.

purchased it from Nehemiah Haines in 1738. The original homestead may have been destroyed by fire or taken down by Joshua Humphries and the present house erected by him prior to the sale of the farm to Samuel Smith, the historian, in 1766. Local tradition supported by papers written by old residents says that the present house was built by Joshua Humphries. It possibly may have been erected by Samuel Smith when the farm containing 160 acres came into his possession in 1766, but I am inclined to believe that the tradition that it was built by Joshua Humphries is true.

As far as I can learn, Samuel Smith never settled on the property. It is generally supposed that he bought it for his son, Richard. Richard inherited the property in 1775 and occupied it until his death in 1796. Richard Smith was a prominent citizen and many noted men were entertained at his home during the Revolutionary period. It was considered the finest homestead in Moorestown at that time. The tradition that George Washington spent one night in the Smith home cannot be verified. One account intimates that this visit was made shortly after the retreat of the British Army from Philadelphia in June, 1778, but this was clearly an error, as history records that Washington and his army which was encamped at Valley Forge, crossed the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry (Lambertville) and passing through Hopewell, Rocky Hill and Englishtown, intercepted the British Army near Freehold. The tradition that Lafayette was the guest of the Smith family as he was passing through Moorestown to join General Washington in north Jersey is probably true. Hessian officers in command of the wing of the British Army that encamped in Moorestown on June 19th, 1778, made the Smith house their headquarters as will be more fully told in the next chapter. Audubon, the great naturalist, was frequently the guest of Edward Harris when the property was in his possession.

FOREST BROOK FARM—The old homestead on Forest Brook farm which is located on the south side of Camden Avenue a little west of Moorestown is an exceptionally fine

example of the colonial homes of this section of New Jersey. It was built by Edward French in 1770 and formerly faced King's Highway which passed south of the homestead and a little north of the brick tenement house still standing on the farm. The name, Charles H. French, 1819, scratched on a window pane in the southeast room on the first floor may still be seen. He was a son of Edward French and at that time was supposed to have been 23 years of age. He afterwards inherited the property from his father and lived there for many years. Doubtless Edward French and his wife had uninvited and unwelcome guests on those historic days when the red coats passed along the old Highway. Forest Brook Farm is part of the original French tract located by Thomas French, the progenitor of the family in Burlington County in 1689. It was purchased by Elisha Roberts, father of the Roberts brothers of Moorestown at the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Hooton in 1842. Elisha Roberts sold it to Ellwood Hollinshead, father of S. Thornton Hollinshead, the present owner, in about 1857.

THE BARCKLOW HOUSE—Another interesting old house that witnessed the stirring events of the Revolutionary War is standing at 272-4 West Main Street, the residences of Mr. and Mrs. Rich. R. Wood and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. LeConey. It was the home of Elisha Barcklow, the father of our townsman, J. Harry Barcklow, for many years and is still known among the "old timers" as the Barcklow house. The frame portion at the western end is the older and was erected about 1765. The property was purchased by William Roberts, possibly shortly after the Revolutionary War and the brick portion was added by him. The house originally stood directly on King's Highway which passed in front of it, rejoining Main Street near Locust. It will be noted that this house as well as the Cadbury home on High Street does not stand parallel to Main Street. These two old homesteads clearly mark the route of the Old Salem Road or King's Highway as it was called after

the Provinces of East and West Jersey were surrendered to the Crown in 1702.

THE SCHOOLEY HOUSE—The house standing at the northeast corner of Main and Schooley Streets in East Moorestown, the residence of Miss Sarah Sloane, generally known as the Schooley house, was standing at the time of the Revolutionary War and was occupied by British officers and soldiers on the night of June 19th. It was then the residence of Joshua Bispham, an ancestor of David Bispham the great singer. Joshua Bispham purchased the lot on which it stands from Nehemiah Haines in 1744 and the house was erected by him shortly afterwards. I do not know the history of the house adjoining it on the east which in appearance is older than the one on the corner. There is no cellar under the front of this house and the cellar under the rear portion which was added later was placed there in recent years. Old residents recall when these two buildings were connected by a one story building but I do not know when this addition was added. Some old records refer to the two properties as the barracks which was probably because the buildings were occupied by the British troops in 1778.

There are many other interesting old homes in or near Moorestown to which I can but briefly refer in this article.

The house on the northern side of Camden Pike opposite Pleasant Valley Avenue, now owned by Mrs. Edward Stone stands on the original Thomas French tract and the first French homestead was located very near this spot. The farm on which it stands was purchased by Edward French who lived at that time on Forest Brook Farm but I cannot state definitely whether or not the present homestead was built by him. A portion of this farm was sold to Ellwood Hollinshead, father of S. Thornton Hollinshead and Ellwood Hollinshead of Moorestown in 1872, the farm having been in the possession of the French family for 183 years.

The middle portion of the club house of the Valley Brook Country Club, formerly the home of Charles C. Haines, was

erected by Jeremiah Matlack, the grandson of William Matlack, the progenitor of the family in Burlington County in about 1753. The house was somewhat altered by the Country Club but the general lines of the exterior have been carefully preserved. This house stands very near the site of the first Matlack homestead erected in 1683.

The old house standing at the northeast corner of Fellowship Road and the lane leading to the brick school house was built about 1751 by Wm. Matlack, the grandson of the pioneer. It stands on the survey of 100 acres for William Matlack in 1682, which extended from creek to creek and originally stood on King's Highway. It is now owned by Elizabeth Matlack and it is interesting to note that the farm has been in the possession of the family since 1682.

The old homestead on the northeast corner of Haddonfield Road and the Lenola Road which could easily be converted into a very attractive colonial home was built by Thomas Cowperthwaite in about 1754. The Cowperthwaite family was active in the affairs of the Meeting and community in the early days but apparently has entirely disappeared from the neighborhood of Moorestown.

An interesting old house north of Moorestown is located on the eastern side of Church Street just out of the town. It is a brick building but was covered with a coat of stucco some years ago. It is supposed to have been built by Samuel Lanning who purchased the property from Edward French in 1770. It was later the home of Robert French, Jr., who married Hannah Warrington in 1785 and settled in this homestead.

VI

Revolutionary Days

THE battle of Germantown was fought on October 4th, 1777, shortly after which General Washington and his heroic troops retired to the hills of Valley Forge. The triumphant British Army settled down in Philadelphia to enjoy a winter of ease and revelry. During the British occupation of Philadelphia, foraging and marauding parties frequently raided the farms in the neighborhood of Moorestown. Bells were rung at their approach and horses and cattle hurriedly driven to the woods and hidden until the raiding party disappeared. These were indeed "times that tried men's souls," the souls of the farmer and his wife as well as of the soldier in the field.

Many interesting stories have come down to us showing the quick wit and resourcefulness of our forefathers in those perilous times. In Woodward and Hageman's History of Burlington County, a story is told of a Jersey farmer residing near Moorestown who barely had time to bury his valuables when the raiding party was seen coming down the road. Fearing that the freshly upturned earth would suggest his hiding place he quickly spread corn over the spot and called the pigs and chickens. All evidence of his hiding place had disappeared when the soldiers dashed in the yard. Another account of this interesting incident states that it occurred on the Nathan Middleton farm which was located north of the railroad. The Middleton homestead stood on Central Avenue west of Chester Avenue near the residence of the late John S. Collins.

A tradition in the Matlack and Coles families tells of an interesting and thrilling incident that happened on Kendall Coles' farm located on the King's Highway at Colestown. Mr. Coles was ill when the British troops approached on June 19th, 1778 and his sons, who hastily drove the horses and cattle to a nearby woods, overlooked Bonnie, a high

spirited colt to whom the family were greatly attached. Mr. Coles' daughter Elizabeth, an active and fearless young girl, seized a bridle and rushing to the field in which Bonnie was grazing, sprang to her back and dashed down the road with the British dragoons in close pursuit. I am glad to record that the plucky Jersey maid won the race. After the war she married Reuben Matlack, the blacksmith, whose stone shop is standing on the old Matlack farm near Colestown, now owned by their great grandchildren, Chalkley and Mary Matlack.

June 19th, 20th and 21st were memorable days in the quiet village of Chester when part of the British army passed through on its way to Freehold where the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse was fought a few days later. The British Army under General Clinton, who had superseded General Howe as commander of the English forces in Philadelphia, crossed the Delaware early on the morning of the 18th and started on its historic march across New Jersey. The army camped at Haddonfield on the night of the 18th and early next morning the Third, Fourth and Fifth Brigades with General Clinton in command took the Great Road to Mount Holly and camped at Evesham (now Mount Laurel) on the night of the 19th. The following order dated Evesham June 19th, 1778, was issued by General Clinton:—"The troops to be under arms tomorrow morning at four o'clock and take up the same order of march as this day. They will receive orders to move off their ground from His Excellency, Lieutenant General Cornwallis."

In a skirmish with the New Jersey Militia who destroyed the bridges in advance of the British Army and hampered their march as much as possible, two houses in Mount Laurel were burned and one soldier, Captain Jonathan Beesley of the Cumberland Militia, was mortally wounded. He was taken to Clinton's headquarters and unsuccessful efforts were made to force him to give information concerning the strength and plans of the American troops. Captain Beesley died during the evening in the house on a farm

located in the neighborhood which at that time was the residence of Hinchman Haines. General Clinton was so impressed by his courage and steadfastness that he gave orders that Captain Beesley should be buried with the honors of war. The house in which General Clinton made his headquarters is still standing on the road leading from Mount Laurel to Evesboro on the northern side of the road about a mile and a half west of the former village.

The wing of the army that passed through Moorestown also left Haddonfield on the morning of the 19th. I cannot state which Brigades or Regiments made up this Division as the record merely states that "another portion of the army on the same day marched up King's Highway, through Ellisburg and camped that night in and near the Friends' Meeting House in Chester." The record also states that "they plundered the inhabitants of their household goods, their grain, horses and cattle in that section of the State at every opportunity." General Clinton had issued an order from his headquarters in Haddonfield in which he stated that all soldiers who were caught marauding should be instantly shot. This and other orders given by General Clinton at the time were either mere gestures or else his orders were not given serious attention by the soldiers as all accounts agree that the farmers were ruthlessly plundered during the march across the State.

Doubtless there were Paul Reveres who rode in advance of the army to give warning of its approach. It is interesting to picture in our minds the army of "Red Coats" as it emerged from the forest west of Moorestown and entered the quiet little Quaker village making their encampment for the night on Ephraim Haines's farm east of the Meeting Houses. History records that it was storming hard on that historic day and doubtless the British soldiers did not present a very imposing appearance.

Perhaps John Hunt, the Quaker preacher, who lived near Moorestown at the time can give us a better picture of the trying days of the war than it would be possible for me

to write. Let us quote from his diary which was faithfully kept from 1770 almost to the day of his death in 1824. "About the 18th, 19th and 20th, the British Army marched up from Philadelphia through the Jerseys. Some part went up through Evesham and part through Moorestown and a most dismal time of trial and stripping it was—they plundering the houses and taking away horses and creatures of every sort. Some families were exceedingly stripped and some fared better than they could expect. In this dreadful time we were favored for they came not to our home; though they were all around amongst our neighbors—except very few of our neighbors escaped their company. The 20th they were in Moorestown and we expected they would come every hour and at last there came three but they were deserters and behaved well." History records that a good many of the Hessian soldiers deserted during this march and according to local tradition a number of their descendants are now living on the farms in the neighborhood of Mount Laurel and Evesboro.

Many of the soldiers were quartered in the stone Meeting House that stood near the old Buttonwood. The officer in command of the Army occupied the home of Richard Smith now standing at No. 12 High Street, According to tradition chickens were killed and dressed in the parlor and the soldiers feasted and reveled far into the night. The commander ordered the ladies of the house to stay in a certain room on the second floor, otherwise he would not be responsible for their safety. As related in "Moorestown Old and New" Elizabeth Murrell[1] a niece of Richard Smith was visiting her uncle at that time and like young people of all ages being impatient under restraint attempted to dash across the hall to her own room. She was suddenly seized by a soldier who attempted to kiss her. Elizabeth was a plucky lass and her struggles and screams quickly

[1]Amelia Mott Gummere the Quaker Historian a direct descendant of Richard Smith, informed me he did not have a niece by that name. Elizabeth Murrell may have been a niece of Mrs. Smith.

brought the officer in command to her rescue. She was sent back to the room with her aunt and the other women of the household and a soldier placed on guard at the door for their protection.

General Knyphausen was in command of the division that camped in Moorestown on June 19th. The following article written by the curator of the Burlington County Historical Society appeared in a local paper many years ago. "The British Army in their retreat from Philadelphia in June, 1778, encamped one night in Moorestown in the old house fast falling into decay in the rear of John Hopkins' residence (now the residence of his son, J. Clement Hopkins located at the southwest corner of Main and High Streets). The Hessian General Knyphausen made it his headquarters and no doubt displayed his usual table manners for he was accustomed to use his thumb to spread the butter on his bread." This, of course, referred to Richard Smith's residence. Dr. A. M. Stackhouse published an article in the Moorestown Chronicle in 1909 in which he quoted from an account by an old chronicler as follows:—"General Knyphausen put up at J. Humphries'[1] house unto whom William and Joseph Roberts went for an order to take their horses from the army. The General readily gave them a writing and the horses were recovered next day."

These interesting traditions are undoubtedly true as William H. Roberts of Moorestown, great-grandson of Joseph Roberts from whom the horses were stolen has the original order issued by the Hessian General. It reads as follows:

Moors Town June 20, 1778

"The bearer, Joseph Roberts has my permission to go through the camp and look for some horses he lost. Wherever he finds them it is ordered hereby to deliver them up immediately."

Knyphausen

[1]The "Smith Mansion," now the Cadbury residence on High Street was formerly owned by J. Humphries and doubtless was still known as the "Humphries House."

Joseph Roberts lived at that time in the old Roberts homestead still standing on Lenola Road near Fellowship.

The house now standing at the northwest corner of Main and Schooley Streets, then the home of Joshua Bispham, also housed some of the British officers and soldiers on that night. The two wings of the British Army united in Mount Holly and on the 22nd of June after destroying the iron works and burning the homes of Peter Tallman and Colonel Isaac Shreeve proceeded on their way to Monmouth Courthouse passing through Jacksonville, Columbus and Crosswicks.

In "Moorestown Old and New" a story is told of an eccentric individual who rushed into the Friends' Meeting and shouted "here you are all sittin with your hats on and the British just down at Neddy French's!" Neddy French's home was on Camden Pike now Forest Brook Farm, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. Thornton Hollinshead. The British, however, were not entering the town at that time but according to the account the Meeting was broken up and "the horses of the worshippers were driven out of the Meeting House yard at a pace that astonished them and startled the neighbors." I do not know whether there is any basis of truth to this interesting and rather ridiculous story although the following record from John Hunt's diary may possibly refer to the same incident. "On Tenth month 23d, 1777" says the diarist, "when we came to Moorestown (evidently on the way to Meeting) there was a great uproar and the people expected the Hessians every hour. When the Meeting had been gathered a little while there was a great uproar and noise in the street and an outcry that the soldiers were coming. A man came to the Meeting House door and called a Friend out and said they would be here in five minutes time. Whereupon some Friends went out and went home but the most part were favored to sit still. There was a constant roaring of cannon all the while which jarred the house but at last came one that shook the wall. Women turned pale and began to cry but sat still.

These cannon were so hard I thought it was likely they were in the lower end of the town. When we came out of Meeting all seemed still and quiet and we found it was a false alarm: there were no Hessians nearer than Haddonfield. It was said that the great shock was a ship blown up." The battle of Red Bank near Westville was fought on the day previous and doubtless the cannonading to which he refers was on the Delaware as the English and American ships engaged in repeated duels for a day or two after the battle.

The Battle of Brandywine fought on September 11, 1777 and the Battle of Germantown on October 4th of the same year, were distinctly heard in Moorestown. Both events are recorded in John Hunt's diary. John Hunt was a consistent Friend and abhorred war but it is evident from the following quotation from his diary that he was a patriot at heart. "But there was an admirable strange turn for as was reported about the 26th of the month (December, 1776) a very stormy day, some hundreds of Hessians or of the English party were taken prisoners at Trenton and brought to Philadelphia and the rest drove back towards Brunswick." This evidently referred to the Battle of Trenton which was fought on Christmas night of that year.

VII

Here and There in Moorestown

As we wander around our beautiful town of homes in search of historically interesting buildings or places, let us not overlook our Town Hall the front half of which was erected in 1812. We do not, as a rule, call the attention of "the stranger within our gates" to this unpretentious home of our Town Fathers, yet in its day and generation it was considered a credit to the community. Dr. Joseph Stokes of Moorestown has the original account book of the Commissioners who had charge of building the Town Hall, showing that the lot was purchased from Thomas Hooton for One Hundred and Thirty-eight Dollars and that the entire cost of the original building was approximately Fifteen Hundred Dollars. His ancestor, Dr. John H. Stokes, a member of the Commission, had charge of the disbursement of the fund.

Moorestown has a number of fine old colonial homes most of which were built in the early days of the Nineteenth Century or during the latter part of the Eighteenth. The attractive old frame house, for many years the residence of Mrs. Mary W. Sumner, which was torn down in 1926 when the Community House, the splendid gift of Eldridge Reeves Johnson to the people of Moorestown, was erected, was built by Thomas Ewing of Philadelphia in 1804. Thomas Ewing also laid out the interesting old garden in the rear. Fortunately—thanks to the foresight and enterprise of the Women's Garden Club—this quaint and attractive old English garden has been preserved for the enjoyment of future generations. The paths bordered by hedges of Boxwood and the beds of old fashioned flowers suggest, perhaps more than any other spot in Moorestown, the days of our grandparents.

The fine old brick mansion next to the Community House on the east formerly the home of Edward Harris, Jr., was

built in 1820 by Charles French, a direct descendant of Thomas French, who settled in West Moorestown in 1694. Charles French died in 1834 leaving his widow a life tenancy in the property and at her death in 1845 it passed into the hands of Edward Harris, Jr. It is now the Friends Home, a delightful retreat for those who have passed the meridian of life and do not care to be cumbered with the cares of housekeeping or business. The small brick houses adjoining the Friends Home are supposed to have been built by Edward Harris, Jr.

The beautiful colonial home located at 245 East Main Street, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Whitall Nicholson, stands on the original tract purchased by Nehemiah Haines in 1741. The eastern portion of the house was built by John Haines, grandson of Nehemiah in about 1790. The original house was quite small, apparently being not more than one room in width as indicated by the wall separating the hall from the library on the east. This is a solid brick wall and evidently at one time was an outside wall. The house was enlarged by Dr. Spencer who purchased the property in 1818 and also enlarged and greatly improved by the present owner. It is not definitely known where Nehemiah Haines' first home which was supposed to have been built of logs was located. The farm extended westward to Chester Avenue and his son, Ephraim, who inherited the property built a stone house at the northeast corner of Main and Chestnut Streets a little in the rear of the residence of the late Henry Perkins. When the present road to Mount Laurel was laid out in 1796, the record of the survey read "starting at King's Highway from a stake in front of John Haines' (son of Ephraim Haines) stone house." The Nicholson home with its large and beautiful lawn is one of the most attractive in Moorestown.

The attractive little brick house located at 404 East Main Street, now owned by E. Leslie Nicholson, was erected in about 1800 by Asher W. Stokes, grandfather of our towns-

man, Harry T. Makin. The interior as well as the exterior of this artistic little home is quaint and attractive.

We will now leave Main Street for the moment and wander out Chester Avenue. The railroad station erected in 1867 gently reminds us of the time when Moorestown was a country village. Just before reaching the Field Club grounds we will find two of the most attractive colonial homes in this locality. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Freeman, 607 Chester Avenue, was built by Samuel Stokes, great great grandfather of Dr. Joseph Stokes of Moorestown in 1753. He was the father of Dr. John Hinchman Stokes who began the practice of medicine in Moorestown in 1786. Dr. Stokes was the first physician in Burlington County to accept Jenner's theory of vaccination and was so confident of its efficacy that he inoculated his little daughter Hannah and laid her on the bed with one of his smallpox patients in order to convince his skeptical friends and patients. He must have been a man of remarkably strong character to be willing to risk the life of his child in order that others might be saved. It is interesting to remember that we have been cared for by a Dr. Stokes since 1786 with the exception of an interval of ten or twelve years when Dr. John H. Stokes, Jr. was too young to practice. Dr. S. Emlen Stokes, son of "Dr. Joe" as he is affectionately called by his friends now a practicing physician in Moorestown has two sons, therefore, let us hope the succession will continue.

The beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Brown which is located almost directly opposite the Freeman homestead, was erected by George M. Haverstick in about 1845. It shares with the Freeman and Nicholson homesteads the honor of being one of the most attractive old homes in Moorestown. Many of us remember it as the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Doughten and prior to that as the residence of Mrs. Doughten's father, Theodore Chamberlain. The fine old trees in the front lawn, some of which may have stood in the primeval forest are espe-

cially interesting and attractive. These beautiful old colonial homes were originally plain farmhouses which have been greatly enlarged and improved by their later owners. The spacious and splendidly kept lawns and gardens give a most attractive setting to the homesteads all of which have retained the beautiful simplicity of "ye olden times."

"Here's Home Farm" the home of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Rhoads on Riverton Road a little north of Moorestown, is one of the most attractive old country homes in this part of the County. The homestead which has been greatly improved by the present owner was built by Jonathan Williams in about 1855. The house sets back from the street probably a quarter of a mile and the front lawn comprising many acres as well as the beautiful trees and shrubbery surrounding it, gives the homestead an especially attractive setting.

The house now standing on the south side of Main Street next to the Friends' eastern Meeting House was the home and shop of Morgan Hollinshead, one of the famous clockmakers of that name. The Hollinshead grandfather clocks are cherished heirlooms in many Burlington County homes and perhaps a brief account of them will not be out of place in this sketch. Fortunately the name and location of the maker appears on the dial of the Hollinshead clocks. Morgan and his son George, who settled in Woodstown, usually numbered their clocks and as the date of their marriage is known it is comparatively easy to approximate the time when each individual clock was made by the number on the dial. The following list of Hollinshead clock makers includes all that I have thus far discovered. It is interesting to note that they are all direct descendants of John and Grace Hollinshead, who settled on the south side of Rancocas Creek about 1680. Hugh, Morgan, Jacob and John were first cousins.

JOSEPH HOLLINSHEAD—Burlington, N. J., son of John and Agnes Hackney Hollinshead and grandson of John and Grace. He married Sarah Pearson, daughter of Isaac Pear-

son, the famous clock maker of Burlington in 1740 and doubtless began his career as a clock maker at that time or shortly afterwards. Charles Evans of Westfield has a fine specimen of his handiwork. It is made with a square face and brass dial which indicates its antiquity. Joseph was probably the first of the family to manufacture clocks.

JOHN HOLLINSHEAD—Burlington, N. J., probably the son of Joseph and Martha Howell, his second wife. William E. Schermerhorn, the author of The History of Burlington, published in 1927, informed me that the clock in the old Court House, erected in 1794, was built by John Hollinshead. J. Howard Mickle of Moorestown has a clock made by him which doubtless was made early in his career as it has a brass dial. The name John Hollinshead, Burlington, appears on a circular brass plate in the lunette. Mrs. Mary E. G. Linton of Moorestown also has a very handsome John Hollinshead clock. It is made with a white enamel dial and his name appears on the lower part of same. There was another John Hollinshead, the fourth in line from the original settler, who lived during the same period but I am convinced he was not the clock maker as he settled on a plantation on the south side of the Rancocas about Bridgeboro. It is natural and reasonable to assume that John, the son of Joseph Hollinshead the clock maker, who lived in Burlington, followed the profession of his father.

HUGH HOLLINSHEAD—Mount Holly, N. J. According to Woodward and Hageman's "History of Burlington County" and other old records, Hugh Hollinshead, the clock maker, lived in Moorestown at the southwest corner of Main Street and Petit's Lane where Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Cadbury now reside. The only Hugh Hollinshead clock, however, that I have yet located, is owned by J. Linton Engle of Haddonfield and is marked, "Hugh Hollinshead, Mount Holly." This clock, which has been in his family for many generations, has a white enamel dial with lunette and was probably manufactured in about 1780. The following appropriate verse appears on the dial:

"I labor here with all my might,
To tell the hour by day and night,
Therefore example take by me
And serve thy God as I serve thee."

A deed dated Second month 26th, 1786, refers to Hugh Hollinshead, watch and clock maker of Mount Holly. He married Eleanor French in 1775. They had a son, Hugh F. Hollinshead, who was born in 1786 and in all probability was the clock maker of Moorestown. The records of Chester Township show that Hugh Hollinshead was a member of the Township Committee from 1802 to 1806 and served as Township Clerk from 1812 to 1816. Our ancestors frequently did not use their middle name and this must have been Hugh F. Hollinshead, as his father died in 1786.

MORGAN HOLLINSHEAD—Moorestown, N. J., son of Edmund and Mary Hollinshead and great grandson of John and Grace. He married first, Rebecca Matlack on Ninth month 30th, 1775 and second, Jane Lippincott. Morgan Hollinshead died in 1832 and doubtless his clockmaking career extended from the time of his marriage to early in the Nineteenth Century. Mrs. W. Henry Evans of Moorestown has one of the first clocks made by him. "Morgan Hollinshead, Chester No. 2" appears at the top of the dial. The name Chester, formerly the name of our town as well as the brass dial indicates its age. It was probably built shortly after his marriage in 1775. It is a very beautiful specimen and is more ornate than some of those made later in his career.

W. Cheston Stokes of Moorestown possesses No. 107, which is the only Morgan Hollinshead clock of which I have any knowledge made with an alarm attachment. The dial and lunette are white enamel indicating a later period and the name "Morgan Hollinshead, Moore's Town No. 107" appears near the bottom. This clock is especially beautiful because of the simplicity of its design. Mrs. Alice Perkins

of Moorestown has No. 78 and Miss Marie J. Scott No. 96. These are both made with white dials and lunettes and are very beautiful specimens of the Hollinshead clocks. Benjamin Cadbury of Moorestown possesses an interesting old clock made by Morgan Hollinshead which is the only one that I have seen which does not give the name of the town in which it was made or was not numbered.

GEORGE HOLLINSHEAD—Woodstown, N. J., son of Morgan and Rebecca Matlack Hollinshead. He married Hannah Davis in about 1800 and died in 1820 consequently any clocks made by him doubtless were made between those dates. Nathan Conrow, whose home is located on the New Albany Road, has the first clock manufactured by him. It is made with a white dial and lunette and is marked "George Hollinshead, Wood's Town No. 1." Lester Collins of Moorestown has a clock made by him which is made with a white dial and lunette which is one of the only two grandfather clocks that I have seen made with the alarm attachment. "G. Hollinshead, Wood's Town" appears on the dial.

JACOB HOLLINSHEAD—Salem, N. J., son of Edward and Millicent Townsend Hollinshead and great grandson of John and Grace. He married Jane Eldridge in 1772 and settled in Salem. He is mentioned as a clock maker in the genealogical sketch of the Hollinshead family written by Dr. A. M. Stackhouse but thus far I have not been able to locate a clock made by him. Mr. Walter Hall, President of the Salem County Historical Society, confirms the statement that Jacob Hollinshead of Salem was a clock maker. All of the Hollinshead clocks that I have thus far examined have been made from beautifully selected walnut wood.

Our Post Office does not have a very pretentious home and it it to be hoped it will be housed in a Federal building sometime in the near future. Isaac Wilkins, appointed by President Thomas Jefferson on July 1st, 1802, was our first Post Master but I cannot state definitely where the office was located. Gilbert Page, who lived in the house now standing at the southwest corner of Main Street and the

Lane west of the Friends' Meeting Houses was our second Post Master. He kept a store for many years in one end of his home and the Post Office was located in the store. He is said to have served under three Presidents, James Madison, James Monroe and John Quincy Adams. The old homestead in which he lived, now part of the Friends' School property, was erected by Joshua Borton in about 1800. The Lane is still known locally as Page's Lane.

Our homes today are splendidly protected by two well organized volunteer fire companies, whose apparatus is of the most modern type, yet some of our oldest residents can recall the days when the "Franklin" a hand power engine and the "Bucket Brigade" were our only protection from fire. The "Franklin" at one time was owned by William Brock who lived at the southeast corner of Second and Mill Streets. It was afterwards purchased by the Township and is now owned and cherished by the members of Hose Company No. 1 on West Main Street. It is an interesting relic of "ye olden times" and the members of the Company are to be commended for recently declining a large cash offer for the old engine. The "Franklin" was pulled and operated by hand and obtained its supply of water from wells or cisterns conveniently placed near the curb in different sections of the town. One of these old wells was located in front of the Town Hall.

The Independent Fire Company, the first to be established in Moorestown, was organized on December 29th, 1876. Its first home was located on West Second Street where Public School No. 9 now stands. Hose Company No. 1, was organized on November 12th, 1888 and prior to the erection of its present home on West Main Street, it was located on Washington Avenue a little north of Second Street. Hose Company No. 2 was organized shortly after No. 1, and for a while had its home in the Rosamond Inn on East Main Street. In 1892 it was incorporated under its present name, The Relief Engine Company, and for a

while its home was on Elm Street. In 1910 the Company erected its present headquarters on Chester Avenue.

Gilbert Aitken of Moorestown has the polling list of voters at an election held in the School House in Moorestown on Tenth month 13th and 14th, 1807, showing that the women of New Jersey voted at that time on an equality with men. Two hundred and sixty votes were cast at this election, twenty-nine of which were by women. Among these I find the names of Sarah Matlack, Hannah and Rebecca Coles, Miriam Conrow, Mary Stokes and Hannah Haines. On looking into the matter I find that our first State Constitution adopted in 1776, granted the vote "to all inhabitants of this Colony of full age who are worth fifty pounds proclamation money." Under this liberal Constitution, the women of the State voted until about 1808, when a Republican[1] Legislature, according to Alice Stone Blackwell in an article published in 1892, changed the Constitution to exclude tax paying women and tax paying negroes from voting. According to her account this was done for the reason that it was found that the women of the State were strongly supporting the Federalist candidates. Mr. Aitken, however, has a clipping from an old newspaper which gives an entirely different reason. This clipping gives an account of a speech made by Senator Palmer of Michigan many years ago in which he stated that the vote was taken from the women shortly after a special election held in Essex County in February, 1807. This election was held to decide whether the new County Court House should be erected in Newark or Day's Hill. Seven thousand voters registered at this election but it was found that fourteen thousand voted. The authorities claimed that the women did the repeating

[1]The two great political parties of that period were the Federalist and Republican. Our first two Presidents, George Washington and John Adams were Federalists and Thomas Jefferson who served as President from 1801 to 1809 was the founder and leader of the Republican Party. The Democratic Party of today recognizes Thomas Jefferson as its founder and has adopted many of the principles of the old Republican Party.

as it was very easy for them to go home, change their dresses and appear under another name. The Legislature set aside the election and changed the Constitution to permit "free white male citizens only" to vote. I cannot state which was the correct reason for the change.

Mrs. J. Whitall Nicholson of Moorestown has in her possession the original Minute Book of the "Female Benevolent Association" organized on Eighth month 8th, 1818. This organization is still in existence although its activities largely have been taken over by the Visiting Nurses' Association which is doing a splendid work in Moorestown and vicinity. Its object as stated in the old Minute Book was "to discover and relieve the necessities of such needy persons as may not come under the particular care of the Overseers of the poor or be fully attended to by them." The officers of the Association were a clerk, treasurer and steward. A committee for distribution and one for the reception of members were also authorized. When extra funds were needed a special committee was appointed to solicit donations of money, provisions or clothing.

The Association was incorporated under the Laws of New Jersey in Eleventh month, 1910. Its by-laws were revised and modernized and the annual dues raised to two dollars. The present officers are Mrs. J. Whitall Nicholson, President and Mrs. Joseph H. Matlack, Secretary and Treasurer. Very little work is now being done by this Association. All honor to this, our first community organization, and as far as I can learn our only association with a continuous record of service for more than one hundred years.

VIII

The Passing of the Stage Coach

THE opening of the railroad from Mount Holly to Camden in 1867 marked the beginning of a new era in the development of Moorestown as a home centre. Prior to that time the stage coach was the only public means of travel between Moorestown and Camden. The first stage line of which I have any knowledge that passed through Moorestown was established by Daniel Cooper in 1759. It started at Cooper's Ferry in Camden and led to Middletown and Sandy Hook passing through Moorestown and Mount Holly. From Sandy Hook the passengers were carried to New York by boat. Another interesting old line was established by John Keen at a very early date and left Toy's Hotel, Camden on Wednesday and Saturday for Moorestown, Mount Holly, Jobstown, Wrightstown and New Egypt. The fare each way to New Egypt was $1.25. These early lines probably stopped in Moorestown at Moore's Hotel in the western end of the town and Cox's Tavern in the eastern end. Prior to the opening of the railroad there were two rival stage lines between Camden and Moorestown, one of which made its headquarters at the William Penn Hotel which stood on the ground now occupied by the Burlington County Trust Company and the other at the West End Hotel now standing at No. 31 West Main Street and used as an apartment house. The stages were far more comfortable at that time than in the early days and after the road was gravelled and incorporated as a turn pike in 1850, travel was probably reasonably comfortable excepting in the Spring of the year. Many of the old milestones are still standing on the north side of the Pike, one being located on Main Street near the forks of the road in West Moorestown and another in East Moorestown opposite the Mount Laurel Road, reminding us of the "good old days" of our grandfathers.

Elmwood, the Old Roberts Home near Fellowship.

Old English Garden in rear of Community House showing Mrs. Mary R. Sumner's fine old home.

The Friends' Home, one of the most attractive colonial houses in Moorestown.

Ivystone, the beautiful old home of Samuel L. Allen near Westfield.

Like all forward movements the advent of the "iron horse" was vigorously opposed by some of our more conservative residents. The progressives, however, won the day and the Camden and Burlington Railroad Company was chartered in 1866 and ran its first train, a special to Mount Holly Fair, in October, 1867. A time table now in the possession of Gilbert Aitken of Moorestown, dated April, 1868, shows that there were two trains in the morning and one in the afternoon to Philadelphia and returning one in the morning and two in the afternoon. The Camden and Burlington County Railroad Company was the outgrowth of several previous attempts to build a road from Mount Holly to Camden. The Mount Holly and Camden Railroad Company was incorporated in 1836 but lost its charter because it was not constructed within the specified five year limit. Another attempt was made in 1859 when the Camden, Moorestown, Hainesport and Mount Holly Horse Car Railroad Company was chartered on March 19th. The charter specified that the road was to be completed five years from the following Fourth of July. Notwithstanding the fact that the charter specified a Horse Car Railroad, the company proceeded to build a road bed and to lay tracks suitable for steam trains. The charter, however, expired by limitation as the road was not completed by July 4th, 1865.

The Camden and Burlington County Railroad Company, which received its charter on February 6th, 1866, was a consolidation of the two earlier companies. It is evident that the company organized in 1859 must have almost completed the road, otherwise the first train could not have been run in 1867. Some of our older residents state that the road was first staked out on the southern edge of the Ridge about where Prospect Avenue is now located but was afterwards changed to Third Street then the northern limit of the village. The company first proposed placing its station at Mill Street but as this plan was vigorously opposed by the residents of the eastern and western ends of the town,

it was finally decided to place one station at Chester Avenue and one at Church Street. The present station at Chester Avenue—one of our most cherished antiques—is the original station with the exception of the baggage room at the eastern end. The attractive brick station in West Moorestown was built in 1897, the original building being now used as a freight station. The Stanwick Avenue Station was erected in 1881 for the accommodation of those who desired to attend the Moorestown Fair, the entrance to which was just across the street north of the railroad.

The Fair was held under the auspices of the Moorestown Agricultural and Industrial Society which was organized and incorporated in 1880. The object of the society was "to promote the agricultural and industrial interests of the people of the community by holding exhibitions, public lectures and discussions from time to time." Horse racing, side shows and gambling were strictly prohibited. The Fair grounds consisted of about seven acres and were located along the railroad track east of Stanwick Avenue. Fairs were held in the Spring and Fall of each year and were largely exhibitions of horses, cattle and other live stock as well as of the farm products of the neighborhood.

At the time the railroad was established the land north of Third Street was open country. The Charles Collins farm was located north of the railroad and east of Chester Avenue. The farm house stood near Joseph H. Roberts' residence, 215 E. Central Avenue and was moved back when the present house was erected in 1898. It is now used by Mr. Roberts as a garage. The Lane to the Collins farm lead to Chester Avenue prior to the opening of Central Avenue. The farm owned by Dr. John H. Stokes joined the Collins farm about where Oak Avenue now runs. The Amos Stiles farm was located west of Chester Avenue and north of the railroad. The farm house stood near the residence of the late John S. Collins, 33 East Central Avenue and the front Lane lead to Chester Avenue about opposite the lane leading to the Collins homestead. There was a

long back lane on the Stiles farm which lead to Church Street near its junction with Maple Avenue.

A group of Moorestown and Philadelphia business men who foresaw the development that would follow the inauguration of train service to Philadelphia, organized the Moorestown Land Company shortly after the opening of the Railroad. They purchased the Charles Collins farm containing fifty acres for $20,000.00 and sub-divided it into building lots. Central and Oak Avenues were laid out east of Chester. Each of the ten members of the company purchased a lot and erected an attractive home on same. Doubtless these men were the first regular commuters to Philadelphia. The commuters in the early days were often times called "crows" for the reason that they spent their days in Philadelphia or Camden and flew out to Moorestown to roost at night. Portions of the Stokes and Stiles farms were purchased a little later and Central and Oak Avenues were extended west of Chester.

All purchasers of lots in the new development had to agree to certain wise restrictions. Nothing objectionable to a residential section, such as "slaughter houses, pigsties, saloons or shops" were permitted. The wisdom of these restrictions—our first zoning law—is evident to us as we stroll through this beautiful section of our town. The development of this section known to the older generations as "The Company Grounds" was the first step in the evolution of Moorestown the typical Jersey village to Moorestown one of the most beautiful suburban towns in South Jersey.

The organization of the Moorestown Improvement Association in 1904 may be said to mark the second step forward. Moorestown at that time still retained many of the characteristics of a country village. There were no sewers in the town and practically no sidewalks north of the Railroad and at that time we were drinking unfiltered water pumped directly from the pond in the woods back of the pumping station and at times directly from Pensauken

Creek. William E. Rhoads, whose beautiful country home is located on Riverton Road just north of the town was the first to realize the need of an association to correct these and other undesirable conditions and should be remembered as the founder of the society. Mr. Rhoads then living on Oak Avenue invited about forty residents representing every section of the town to meet at his home to discuss the advisability of organizing an Improvement Association. The proposed plan met with the approval of all present and The Moorestown Improvement Association, whose sole aim was and is to make Moorestown a more attractive community of homes was organized.

The residents of the town cooperated with the activities of this organization with the result that eight or ten miles of cement sidewalks were laid during the following two or three years and the Moorestown Water Company was induced to install a filtration plant. The movement for the bonding of the Township to purchase the water plant and to establish an artesian well system was started by The Improvement Association in 1912. A committee of representative citizens met at the Town Hall to consider the subject and a Citizens' Committee with the late Walter P. Stokes as Chairman was appointed to carry out the plan. A special election was held on July 15th, 1913 at which the people approved the bonding of the Township for $140,000.00 for the purpose. The Moorestown Water Company was paid $77,322.80 for the plant which was considered a fair valuation at that time. The country village has largely disappeared and Moorestown is now recognized as one of the most beautiful of Philadelphia's suburban communities.

IX

Religious Organizations

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS—The following brief sketches of the various branches of the Christian Church in Moorestown are given in the order of their establishment. Practically all of the early settlers were Friends or Quakers as they are generally called and the Quaker Meeting House was the only place of public worship in Moorestown until early in the Nineteenth Century. It may be of interest to those of my readers who are not members of the Society to know that the name "Quaker" was applied to the members of the Society in derision during the early years of its existence. George Fox, the founder of the Society, bade Justice Bennett, before whom he was being tried, to "tremble at the Word of God," hence the name Quaker.

The first Friends' Meetings in this vicinity were held on alternate First Days at the homes of Timothy Hancock and John Kay in 1685. Timothy Hancock lived on the Pensauken Creek near the present location of the Club House of the Valley Brook Country Club and John Kay's home was located on the north branch of Cooper Creek near Ellisburg. These meetings were held under the authority and care of Burlington Monthly Meeting. The first Meeting House in Moorestown erected in 1700 was a small log affair and stood on the northwest corner of Main Street and Chester Avenue. Chester Avenue was called the Great Road or Meeting House Lane in the early Meeting records.

The lot on which the Meeting House stood was conveyed by James and Esther Adams to Matthew Allen, John Adams, William Hollinshead, Thomas French, Joseph Heritage, Thomas Wallis, John Cowperthwaite, William Matlack, Sarah Roberts (widow of John Roberts), Richard Heritage, all of Chester Township and Thomas Hooton and Timothy Hancock of Evesham Township trustees of

Chester Meeting for fourteen shillings lawful money on Second month 9th, 1700. The deed read, "all that acre of land on King's Highway on the west together with all that house or building now erected and being upon said acre of land called the Quaker Meeting House." For many years the Meeting was called the Adams' Meeting.

Money had been subscribed for the purchase of this lot and the erection of a Meeting House prior to the transfer of the land as will be clearly shown by the following entry copied from the records of Chester Preparative Meeting under date of Second month 9th, 1700. "Articles of agreement between John Hollinshead, James Adams, Matthew Allen, John Adams, William Hollinshead, Thomas French, Joseph Heritage, Thomas Wallis, John Cowperthwaite, William Matlack, Sarah Roberts, Richard Heritage, Thomas Hooton and Timothy Hancock in manner following:—that is to say whereas the said parties (being all of the people of God called Quakers) having heretofore voluntarily contributed and collected among themselves the sum of Seventy-one Pounds, fourteen shillings (or thereabouts) current money for the purchase of land and for building of a Meeting House thereon for the worship of God in spirit and in truth which said acre of land is already purchased and the said house built accordingly." I have quoted this article in full to correct an error which has appeared in a number of local histories to the effect that this acre of land was sold to the Meeting for fourteen shillings which indicated the value of an acre of land in the heart of Moorestown at that time. As James Adams was one of the contributors to the fund it is evident that the lot was contributed to the Meeting.

It is interesting to note that with the exception of John and James Adams these contributors and trustees were farmers in the neighborhood and did not live on the ground on which Moorestown now stands, showing that Chester as the village was first called, must have been a very small

settlement. Moorestown, without question, was largely a community of farmers until after the Revolutionary War.

The log Meeting House which was burned in 1720, was replaced by a larger stone building which accommodated the Quaker families of the neighborhood until the closing years of the century when it became evident that a still larger building was needed. The Meeting House now standing at the eastern end of the property now owned by the two branches of the Society, was erected in 1802 and the old stone Meeting House taken down. The land on which the two Meeting Houses and the Friends' School now stand, was purchased from Ephraim Haines by Chester Meeting in 1781 "to be applied to such uses as the body of Friends belonging to the above named Meeting shall think proper." The old Meeting House erected in 1802 is now the property of the Hicksite branch of the Society and is undoubtedly the oldest place of public worship in Moorestown. After the unfortunate separation in 1827, the Orthodox branch erected a frame Meeting House on the western end of the lot which was torn down in 1897 and the present large brick building erected.

I am using the names "Hicksite" and "Orthodox" in a historical sense only as the two principal branches of the Society, generally speaking, have been so designated since the Separation. Each branch retained the name "The Religious Society of Friends." The name "Hicksite" is unjust excepting in the sense that those so designated in 1827 supported their leader, Elias Hicks, in his controversy with the Elders of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The followers of Elias Hicks never officially endorsed or adopted his doctrines and some were not in sympathy with them but followed him out of the Meeting because they felt he had been unfairly treated by the Philadelphia Ministers and Elders.

Elias Hicks, a Long Island farmer, was one of the three outstanding Quaker preachers of his day. His views were held to be unsound by the leading Elders of the Philadel-

phia Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting seems to have been largely dominated by the City Elders, most of whom were extremely conservative and held strictly evangelical views. The country members were more liberal in their views and felt that they were not being given fair consideration at the sessions of the Yearly Meeting. It was in a sense a struggle between autocracy and democracy in church government. The liberals, when they found their differences could not be adjusted, withdrew and set up separate Meetings. Generally speaking the Orthodox branch retained the city Meeting Houses and properties and the Hicksite branch those located in the country. Had a larger measure of love and forbearance been exercised by both parties the schism would probably have been averted.

The Friends' Meetings in Moorestown now have a membership of nine hundred and fifty-two, of which five hundred and twelve belong to the Hicksite Meeting and four hundred and forty to the Orthodox Meeting.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH—The first Methodist Church or Meeting House as it was then called, was erected in 1815 on a lot fifty by sixty feet purchased from Edward Harris, Sr., for $100.00. It was a small, plain brick building "without bell tower or spire" and stood on the south side of Main Street in the front yard of the property adjoining the Community House grounds on the west. The trustees of the infant church were James Stiles, Jacob Dobbins, John Van Horn, Isaiah Toy and Edward Harris. Rev. John Van Schorck was the first Pastor. Prior to the building of this church Methodism had been preached in Moorestown by circuit riders who found receptive ears in the quiet little Quaker village. Doubtless some of these early meetings were held in the home of Edward Harris on High Street as Mr. Harris, although a member of the Episcopal Church, opened his doors to all ministers whose doctrines were unquestionably orthodox. Other meetings were held in the Town Hall which was erected in 1812

The seed planted by these itinerant preachers fell on fertile soil and the followers of John Wesley grew steadily in this vicinity. Among the early members we find the names of James and Mary Moore, Rhoda Conover, Micajah Dobbins, William D. and Martha Brock and Wilhelmina Van Sciver. In 1845-46 a series of Revival Meetings were held in the church under the leadership of their pastor, Rev. Thomas G. Stewart, and as a result the membership—then fifty persons—was doubled. The old Meeting House soon became too small for the growing congregation and in September, 1858 the lot on which the church now stands was purchased and in 1860 the present building erected. The parsonage in the rear of the church on Second Street, was built in 1873. The church building was enlarged and improved in 1901, the new stone front being the gift of Calvin Crowell and family. Rev. Frederick B. Morley is now Pastor of the church which has a membership of three hundred and forty.

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on north Church Street was established in 1883. Rev. George M. Whitten, then living in Mount Holly, was the first pastor. The present pastor is Rev. William A. Dorsey and the church has a membership of two hundred and twenty-three.

The Methodist Protestant Church—In 1883 there was a separation in the Methodist Church in Moorestown which from all I can learn in talking with members of each side of the controversy was caused entirely by difference of opinion regarding church government. Part of the congregation withdrew and established the Methodist Protestant Church, located on the north side of Main Street, west of Church Street. As in the case of the Quaker separation in 1827, a larger measure of love and Christian forbearance on each side perhaps would have prevented the division. The present Pastor is Mrs. George Knell, Jr., and the church has a membership of forty-seven.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH[1]—The Baptist Church of Moorestown also had its roots in the old Harris mansion, still standing at No. 12 High Street. Edward Harris, Sr., was a member of the Church of England, but Mrs. Harris was a Baptist, her father being Rev. Thomas Ustick, a prominent Baptist Minister of Philadelphia. It was probably through her influence that Dr. Wm. Slaughter, pastor of the Sansom Street Baptist Church of Philadelphia, sent Theological students under his care to Moorestown. They frequently preached in the Harris homestead in the years 1810-1811-1812. Early itinerant Baptist preachers also held services in the Town Hall and the old Methodist Meeting House after the death of Edward Harris, Sr., in 1822.

There were, however, very few Baptist families in Moorestown prior to 1835. Elizabeth Van Derveer, wife of David Van Derveer, seems to have been the first. She was a member of the Haddonfield Baptist Church. Margaret Van Derveer, wife of Thomas, was "awakened" by the preaching of Rev. James M. Challis and afterwards joined the Church. Miss Miriam Shinn and Mrs. Ann Perkins, members of the Evesham Baptist Church founded in 1803 were among the earliest members. The Evesham Church (now Marlton) was the first Baptist Church in the neighborhood of Moorestown. It was located about three-quarters of a mile east of Marlton at a place called Eves Causeway in the early days. Services were first held in a school house at that place. The building is no longer in existence and was probably torn down when the Marlton Church was erected in 1840. On January 1st, 1835, Daniel Kelsey and John S. Clinger, Theological students, under the instruction of Rev. Samuel Aaron of Burlington, arrived in Moorestown and asked to be directed to the home of a Baptist resident. They were directed to the home of Margaret Van Derveer, where they received a cordial welcome. A meeting was

[1]This sketch is based on an historical sermon preached by Rev. E. D. Fendall, Pastor of the Church from 1852-1870, as given in Woodward and Hageman's "History of Burlington County" published in 1883.

held that evening and again on the evening following in the Town Hall. Thomas Venable, William Smith, Samuel Wisham and wife, were converted by these earnest preachers and afterwards joined the Church. In March, 1836, Chalkley Haines opened his home in Fellowship for the use of the itinerant Baptist preachers and at least twenty persons were baptized at these meetings. Shortly afterwards regular meetings were held in Moorestown, probably in the Town Hall, and the leaders decided to organize an independent church in this vicinity. Thirty-one persons united in asking for letters of dismissal from the Haddonfield Church.

On April 22, 1837, a meeting for organization was held at the home of Moses Hammel. Charles Kain was chosen Moderator and Moses Hammel clerk. The deacons chosen were Benjamin Jones, Samuel Wisham and Moses Hammel. The new church organization was publicly recognized by a council of ministers held in Town Hall on May 6, 1837. The lot on which the church now stands was purchased from Wm. Doughten for $500. and work on the building promptly begun. The original church was 40 x 45′ but since then it has been enlarged and greatly improved. It was dedicated Aug. 10, 1838, the Rev. Samuel Cornelius preaching the sermon. The Rev. John N. Courtney was the first pastor and was paid a salary of $300. per year. A little later, however, he also assumed charge of the Marlton Baptist Church, each congregation paying him $225. The church has had a steady growth and now has a membership of three hundred and forty-three. The present Pastor is Rev. C. W. MacGeorge.

The Second Baptist Church (Negro) on Mill Street, was organized in 1897. Rev. Samuel C. Hill is now the Pastor and the Church has a membership of two hundred and forty.

The Protestant Episcopal Church—Among the early settlers of Chester Township there were quite a number who belonged to the Church of England, now the Protestant Episcopal Church. A number of these were converts from

the Society of Friends who joined the Established Church as followers of George Keith, the brilliant Scotch Quaker who was disowned by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting held at Burlington, N. J. in 1692 for doctrinal differences. He joined the Church of England and was one of the first missionaries sent to America by "the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." On the way to this country, George Keith became acquainted with John Talbot who was Chaplain on the boat and with him established Old St. Mary's Church in Burlington in 1703. Keith had a large following in the Society and quite a number of families were influenced to join the Church of England by his preaching.

The Episcopalians of this vicinity had no regular place of worship until St. Mary's Episcopal Church was established at Colestown in 1751. The Colestown church was a plain, frame building without belfry or steeple and stood a little below the present entrance to the Cemetery on the road leading to Merchantville. Unfortunately this old landmark was burned in 1899. A monument standing in the Cemetery near Church Road marks the exact location of the old building. The brick walk leading up to the monument is part of the walk which lead from the church to King's Highway. In the early part of the Nineteenth Century, most of the members of St. Mary's Church lived in or near Moorestown and after years of earnest consideration it was decided to build a new church in the village.

The lot on which the church now stands at the northwest corner of Main and Church Streets extending back to Second, was donated by Edward Harris, Jr., who also gave $500.00 to the building fund. The corner stone was laid in October, 1837, and the new church was consecrated by Bishop George Washington Doane of Burlington on March 2d, 1838. The building constructed entirely of stone was beautiful in its dignity and simplicity and with its ivy covered walls was a noticeable and attractive landmark. All hearts were saddened when it was torn down in 1927 to

be replaced by the present handsome structure. Rev. Francis Lee was the first Rector of the Moorestown church and Dr. Jonathan J. Spencer and Samuel Rudderow were the first wardens. Under the leadership of Rev. H. Hastings Weld, who was Rector from 1854 to 1870 the building was enlarged and improved in many respects. The church's most prized possession is a silver Communion set formerly owned by the old St. Mary's Church of Colestown. The Rev. Edgar L. Sanford is the present Pastor and the church now has a membership of two hundred and seventy.

The Roman Catholic Church—Prior to the erection of the brick church in 1870 which stood on the site of the present imposing stone edifice, the Catholics of Moorestown worshipped in the village of Fellowship. The first Catholic services in the neighborhood of Moorestown were held in a room over a wheelwright shop in Evesboro in 1849. A little later services were held in the home of James Laverty of Fellowship (father of Mrs. Edward Brickner of Moorestown). Mr. Laverty, who arrived in this country from Ireland in 1832, was the first Catholic to settle in the neighborhood of Moorestown. Services were occasionally held in his home until 1853 when a small church was erected in his yard. It was conducted as a Mission Church by Father Moran of Camden. In 1863, Rev. Patrick Byrne of Camden took charge of the Fellowship mission. The church was destroyed by fire in 1869 and it was decided to build the new church in Moorestown as it was more centrally located and on the railroad. The new church which was built of brick was erected in 1870 and had a seating capacity of about 350. The church was continued as a mission until 1880 when Bishop Corrigan of Newark appointed Rev. James McKernan Pastor.

Rev. John W. Murphy, upon whose "Historical Sketch of the Church of our Lady of Good Counsel" I have depended in a large measure for my information, was placed in charge of the church in 1890. Under his leadership the present handsome stone building was erected, the corner stone being

laid in October, 1895, and the church dedicated on October 11th, 1896. The new building has a seating capacity of 600. The church now has a membership of fourteen hundred and eighty-two and is in charge of Rev. Thomas F. Rudden.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH[1]—On January 31st, 1887, Rev. D. C. Porter of Mount Holly visited Mrs. Ann J. C. Bennett, an ardent Presbyterian, then living at 123 E. Central Avenue, for the purpose of considering the advisability of starting a Presbyterian Church in Moorestown. Mr. Porter offered to come to Moorestown on February 13th of that year and hold a service in Grange Hall which is located on the north side of Main Street a little east of Chester Avenue. This was the first Presbyterian service ever held in Moorestown. Encouraged by the interest shown at this meeting Grange Hall was engaged for regular services and for the organization of a Sunday School. The preaching was done by students from the Princeton Theological Seminary.

On April 25th, 1887, a committee appointed by the Presbytery of Monmouth, within whose bounds Moorestown was situated, visited the field and held a conference with the leaders of the local group. The time appeared to be favorable to organize and to gather funds for the erection of a church building. Progress was so encouraging that a committee of the Presbytery met the congregation on Sept. 12th in Heulings Hall, located on the second floor of a building then standing on the east side of Chester Avenue opposite the railroad station and organized the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown. Nine names were entered on the roll as charter members and on the following Sabbath twenty-seven more presented letters of dismissal to the new church.

John C. Arrison and Thomas S. Collings were the first Elders chosen. Rev. Chalmers Martin was installed as Pastor on April 25th, 1889 and served until June, 1891, when

[1]This article with the exception of the closing sentences is a digest of an interesting sketch of the church which Dr. Finney kindly sent me.

he resigned to accept the pastorate of Fort Henry Presbyterian Church, New York. The congregation continued to worship in Heulings Hall until the new building was completed in June, 1892. The doors were thrown open for public worship on June 26th and the new Pastor, Rev. Wm. P. Finney, was installed.

Dr. Finney served the congregation and the community faithfully for eighteen years and it is my pleasure to testify to his splendid service as a Christian Minister and public spirited citizen. The building was enlarged and the Chapter House erected in 1916. The congregation now consists of 217 members and is steadily growing under the faithful and inspiring leadership of the Rev. J. Shackelford Dauerty.

X

Schools—Public and Private

PUBLIC SCHOOLS—Free public schools were established in New Jersey in 1871 after a struggle of almost fifty years by the progressive educational forces of the State. The first educational legislation was passed in 1816 when State school funds were established, the income from which was to be used for the support of schools. In 1820 permission was granted to levy taxes "for the education of such poor children as are paupers." The first general school law was passed in 1829 after an investigation showing that one-third of the children of the State were without educational opportunities. This estimable law provided for district schools, school trustees, licensed teachers and local taxation. $20,000 per annum was appropriated to establish the system. This law, however, was repealed during the following year and the old pauper system reestablished. Under this system public moneys were used exclusively for the education of the children of the poor. The battle against the "pauper system" as well as against the "rate bill" and for an absolutely free public school system was renewed with vigor. Thinking men realized that direct taxation was the best method. Their slogan was, "the wealth of the State must educate the children of the State."

A convention was held at Trenton in 1838 at which a committee of nine with Rev. George Washington Doane, Rector of St. Mary's Church at Burlington as Chairman was appointed to prepare an address to the people of New Jersey on the educational needs of the State. Speakers were sent out to every section of the State to talk to the people about this very important subject. So much interest in a free public school system was aroused that the pauper school laws were repealed. In 1844 a new State Constitution was adopted which limited the use of the income from all State school funds exclusively to the support of the pub-

lic schools. Our schools, however, were not absolutely free until 1871 when the Rate-bill was abolished. Under its provisions the parents of children attending the district schools were taxed pro rata for any deficiency in revenue in the maintenance of the school. Education was very cheap in those days and the amount of the tax usually very small, yet it kept many parents from sending their children to school.

A district school was located at the southeast corner of Church and Second Streets and was known locally as the "Friendship School." This frame school house containing but one room, faced Church Street—then known as Fork Landing Road—and was erected about 1830. Second Street was not laid out until 1840. Under the Rate-bill parents of the children attending this school were required to pay a small sum per day for each child in attendance. This school house was moved across Second Street in about 1850 to the lot on which the public school buildings now stand where it remained until the first free public school house was erected in 1873. It was then purchased by Andrew Aitken, father of our townsmen, Gilbert and Andrew Aitken, and moved back to its original location. The rear portion of the house now standing at the southeast corner of Church and Second Streets is part of this old building.

Men now living in Moorestown tell interesting stories of their school days in this old building. Directly in front of the teacher's desk, a high affair that stood on a raised platform, a nail was partially driven in the floor. The boy about to be whipped was compelled, after removing his coat, to lean over and place one hand on this nail. He was then thrashed mercilessly oftentimes for what we would consider minor offenses. One boy on his way to school reached through a neighbor's garden fence and stole a tomato and was unfortunately detected in the act. The owner of the garden complained to the teacher and the boy was whipped until he fainted. Just what would happen if a boy committed a major offense is left to the imagination

of the reader. In winter time when the big boys attended school, the teacher was invariably a man who no doubt was selected for his brawn as well as his brain. In the spring and summer months when the big boys as well as the teacher were needed on the farm, a sister or daughter often acted as teacher. The school was then called a "dame" school.

The new brick school erected in 1873 was a two story affair and contained four class rooms. A photograph of this building and the frame district school building that preceded it were exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in 1876 in the New Jersey Educational Building to show the progress in school construction. Miss Rebecca T. Garrigues was the first principal of the public school and was followed by Miss Anna Weld, daughter of the Episcopal Minister, Rev. H. Hastings Weld. Miss Ella M. M. Carr, now Mrs. Gilbert Aitken, succeeded Miss Weld in 1878. Mrs. Aitken faithfully served the community as principal and teacher for thirty years. This building was torn down in 1914 when the present handsome High School building was erected. The brick building on Second Street nearest to Church, formerly the High School was erected in 1898 and is now used as a gymnasium. No. 9 school building adjoining it on the east now being used for the lower grades, was built in 1906. The Moorestown High School under the leadership of Professor George C. Baker, has achieved an enviable position among the educational institutions of the State.

Another district school was located on the north side of Camden Pike directly opposite the Catholic Cemetery. It was a small frame building containing only one room and according to the memory of some now living in Moorestown who attended this school, it was a very old building at that time. Our townsman, Jeremiah Haines, now in his eighty-second year, taught in this school as well as in the district school building that stood at the northeast corner of Church and Second Street.

FRIENDS' SCHOOLS—Prior to the establishment of the district schools, the schools of Moorestown and neighborhood were either under the care of the Society of Friends or were conducted in the homes of individuals as private enterprises. The Society of Friends at a very early date became deeply interested in the education of its youth. The Yearly Meeting held in 1746 expressed the desire "that Friends in their several Monthly Meetings be encouraged to assist each other in the settlement and support of schools for the instruction of their children at least to read and write." The minute proceeds to say, "many of the children of Friends previous to that time were brought up without school instruction; and even those in comfortable circumstances in some country places for want of convenient schools never learned either to read or write." The Yearly Meeting of 1778 expressed a united concern "for the establishment of schools for the instruction of youth in useful learning." The minute further stated that notwithstanding the pressing recommendations before mentioned "very little had been done efficiently in the matter."

On Eighth month 31st, 1784, Chester Preparative Meeting of Friends (Moorestown) purchased one and one-quarter acres of land from Job and Ann Cowperthwaite located on School House Lane west of the Haddonfield Road not far from the old Matlack homestead still standing at the corner of School House Lane and Fellowship Road. This lot was bought for school purposes and a brick school house was erected thereon during the following year. The school stood near the King's Highway not far from its junction with the old Ferry Road leading to Camden. This school house was apparently erected a little before the Friends' Stone School in Moorestown to which I will refer later in this article.

A minute of Evesham Monthly Meeting dated Ninth month 10th, 1784, clearly indicates that neither the brick school on the Matlack farm or the stone school in Moorestown was the first to be established under the care of

Chester Meeting. This minute records "that a school at Moorestown had been discontinued; that another is likely to be established in Chester (Township) near Job Cowperthwaite's and that the above named school at Evesham is established." I have found no other reference to a school having been held in Moorestown under the care of the Meeting prior to 1785 and I assume it was held in the Meeting House. Preparative Meeting records show that a committee was appointed on Twelfth month 6th, 1785 "to have the care and oversight of the Friends' School near William Matlack's" to which I have just referred. It is interesting to note that in 1818 the average attendance in this school was thirty-one. The school at that time was kept open about four months during each year.

At the time of the Separation in the Society of Friends in 1827, the Brick School was retained by the Hicksite Friends and was used by them until 1872 when it passed under control of the County and was used as a public school building until 1917 when it was sold to Joseph Matlack. It is still standing on the Matlack farm and is now used during the summer months to house berry pickers. For several years after the Separation the Orthodox Friends conducted a school in the home of Joseph Roberts who lived in the neighborhood. In 1835, they purchased a lot from George Matlack on the road leading from Fellowship to Lenola and built thereon a small frame school house. The price paid for the lot was One Dollar and it was agreed that George Matlack should have the privilege of buying the land and building if the Brick Schoool should be restored to the Meeting or the school discontinued. This School House stood on the south side of Lenola Road about one-quarter mile east of the Haddonfield Road on land now owned by Arthur J. Collins. It was taught for many years by Esther Roberts, a woman of strong character who was greatly loved by her pupils.

The Society of Friends erected the Stone School House in Moorestown in 1785 on land purchased by the Meeting in

Friends' Meeting House erected in 1802. The oldest place of public worship in Moorestown.

Chester Brick School on Haddonfield Road erected by the Society of Friends in 1785.

Courtesy of Gilbert Aitken

Our first Public School erected in 1873, replaced by the High School Building in 1914.

Courtesy of Gilbert Aitken

The Old Episcopal Church erected in 1837. Photograph furnished by Gilbert Aitken who has been a Warden since 1833.

1781 from Ephraim Haines to be used exclusively for Meeting purposes. On First month 3d, 1786, a committee was appointed by Chester Preparative Meeting "to have the care and oversight of the Friends' School in Moorestown and inspect into the good order and improvements thereof." Another minute dated Eighth month 8th, 1786, refers to the school house "lately erected on the lot of land in Moorestown belonging to said Meeting." The minute also called attention to the fact that the cost of the building two hundred fifty-three pounds and twelve shillings had not all been subscribed. Subsequent minutes show that the small attendance of these early Friends' Schools was a matter of "deep concern" to the Trustees. These records definitely set the date of the building of this school house.

The school was a plain square stone building with a vestibuled entrance on the south side. It served its purpose until 1878 when a one room brick addition was erected on the northern side. The section of stone wall on the western side of the school building standing between the two Meeting Houses, south of the main entrance, formed part of the building erected in 1785. Rachel Hunt, who afterwards married David Roberts, grandfather of the Roberts brothers of Moorestown, taught in this school for many years. According to an interesting family tradition, she at one time asked the committee in charge of the school for an assistant which request was denied as the committee could not see why she needed help with only one hundred children under her care. As the building was not large it is probable that one hundred children did not attend school at one time.

The name "Friends' Academy" was given to the school shortly after its enlargement in 1878. The name was suggested and earnestly advocated by Mary Warrington Stokes who apparently had a vision of its future growth. Richard Cadbury was the first Principal of the Academy and was followed by Edward Forsythe, Walter L. Moore and William F. Overman. When William Overman became

Principal in 1893 the Academy Building consisted of the old stone school building and the brick addition on the northern side to which a second story had been added for the use of the Friends' Library. He also "dreamed dreams" of the school's future growth which he clearly foresaw would follow the erection of a larger building with better equipment and the addition of several courses to the curriculum. Under his leadership a two story addition was added on the south side and later the stone building was taken down with the exception of the west wall and the present building erected. As many as one hundred and sixty-four pupils attended the school during his administration.

The Friends' High School building located at the northwest corner of Chester Avenue and Second Street, dates back to the division in the Society in 1827 and was entirely under the care of the Hicksite Friends until the two schools were merged in 1920 and placed under the control of a joint committee representing the two Meetings. The first building, a small frame affair, was erected in 1829 on the plot of land purchased by the Society of Friends from Nathan Heritage in 1795. It faced Chester Avenue and originally stood on land now occupied by Second Street. When Second Street was laid out about 1840, the building was moved a little to the North, where it stood until 1880 when it was torn down and the present building erected. The uniting of the schools in 1920 has worked out very satisfactorily and has also had the happy effect of bringing the two branches of Friends into closer fellowship.

The first Kindergarten School in Moorestown was established by the Hicksite Friends in the Fall of 1883. Rachel L. Rogers was the first teacher and it is interesting to note that her salary for the first year was thirty dollars per month. Sarah Wilson, now Mrs. Nathan Conrow, was engaged to assist her in 1885. Thirty-four pupils were enrolled in the winter of 1888-9 with an average attendance of twenty-seven.

On Fourth month 25th, 1889, Rachel Rogers was granted a leave of absence to further perfect herself in kindergarten work. In Seventh month, 1890, she entered into an agreement with the School Committee under which she was to run the school as her own enterprise, the Meeting agreeing to supply the building and school furniture. In the Spring of 1891 she informed the Committee that she would not be a candidate for another year. She opened a Kindergarten School in the home of Mrs. Foote at the southeast corner of Chester and Central Avenues in the Fall of 1891. Shortly afterwards the school was moved to her home on Central Avenue and conducted by her for several years.

Rachel Rogers, who studied under Madame Kraus, a pupil of Froebel, was an earnest and gifted educator and should be remembered and honored as the Founder of the Kindergarten Schools in this vicinity.

W. Elmer Barrett was the first Principal of the United Schools and under his leadership the experiment proved to be most successful. During his administration important alterations were made in the school building and the standard of the school raised in many ways. The Moorestown Friends' School with the financial and moral support of both Meetings has assumed a leading position among the educational institutions of South Jersey. Mr. Barrett was succeeded by Chester L. Reagan in 1925. Under his inspiring leadership the old Academy building was again enlarged and improved in many ways. The removal of the library to the Community House and the removal of the kitchen to the basement of the Friends' Meeting House in the western end of the yard, made additional room for the entrance of more pupils. In 1929, the present handsome High School building was erected and the school house on Chester Avenue abandoned. A large measure of credit for the planning and building of this splendidly equipped school is due to Samuel R. Matlack, Chairman of the Building Committee. The Moorestown Friends' School now can accommodate six hundred pupils and opened this Fall with

four hundred and one pupils enrolled. It is undoubtedly the largest college preparatory school in South Jersey.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS—I have found no record of any school in the neighborhood of Moorestown prior to the establishment of the Friends' Schools in 1785 and very few references to the schools of that period. As Friends laid great stress on education, there were no doubt many private schools conducted by members of the Society prior to that time. Woodward and Hageman's "History of Burlington County" mentions a frame school house that stood on the old Ferry Road near its junction with King's Highway not far from the Friends' Brick School. This school, according to the account, was abandoned when the Brick School was established by the Meeting in 1785. An article written by Dr. A. M. Stackhouse and published in the Moorestown Chronicle many years ago contained the following reference to a school on King's Highway. "Prior to 1756 a school house stood on the east side of King's Highway near the south branch of Pensauken Creek on land owned (when the article was written) by William T. Lippincott." The Lippincott farm was located on Church Road opposite the Colestown Cemetery and was separated from the old Reuben Matlack farm now farmed by Lindley H. Gardiner by the south branch of Pensauken Creek. I am of the opinion that this was the same school as the one referred to in the old History as they were located in the same neighborhood.

Dr. Stackhouse in this or possibly another article, stated that Joseph Roberts (born in 1742) "who gave some information about the schools of his time, mentions a Wallis School and a Roberts School where he went to school." I talked with the Roberts brothers of Moorestown who are lineal descendants of Joseph Roberts about the Roberts School but they do not seem to have any knowledge of any school known by that name during the Eighteenth Century. Dr. Stackhouse further stated in his article that he was un-

able to locate either of these schools but was of the opinion that the Wallis School was near Lenola.

The Mary Lippincott Boarding School for girls was undoubtedly the most famous of the many private schools that flourished in Moorestown during the Nineteenth Century. This school was located in East Moorestown on the north side of Main Street a little east of Stanwick Avenue. The school was established in 1843 and flourished for about forty years. Mrs. Lippincott, who once taught school at Westtown, was a noted educator in her day and her school was patronized by the daughters of many of the most cultured families in South Jersey, Philadelphia and vicinity. Much attention was given to the manners and deportment of the students. The school was beautifully located on the ridge and commanded a splendid view of the valley to the south. A favorite walk of the girls led to the famous Indian Spring located about one-quarter mile down in the valley almost directly in front of the school. Many of the girls came from Philadelphia and doubtless they had jolly times as they journeyed back and forth in the stages before the opening of the railroad in 1867.

The Weld School conducted by Rev. H. Hastings Weld, Rector of the Episcopal Church from 1854 to 1870 was also famous in its day. It was held in the Rectory of the Church and Mr. Weld was ably assisted by Miss Helen Weld who afterwards conducted a small school in the Rectory. Mr. Weld, a man of high character and exceptional literary attainments, was greatly loved by his pupils. In addition to his duties as pastor and teacher, he found time to write weekly editorials on Religious and Moral subjects for the Philadelphia Public Ledger then owned and edited by George W. Childs. Mr. Childs, who regarded him highly, attended his funeral in 1874.

"Fairview Academy" another well known private school was conducted by James E. Giffen in "Fairview" the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Stokes, located on Haddonfield Road at the top of the hill leading down to

the Water Works. When Mr. Stokes came into possession of the building the black boards were still attached to the walls in the school room. Jeremiah Haines, who attended this old school, informed me that it was held on the second floor and was reached by an outside stairway. If Woodward and Hageman's History is correct, the district school located about three miles east of Moorestown known as Page's School House and later as the Poplar Grove School, formerly stood on or near the site of "Fairview." It was sold to Thomas Page who moved it to its present location. It is situated on the Hartford Road on farm No. 1 belonging to the Jersey Orchards' Corporation and is now used as a tenement house.

An old map published in 1860 shows that C. C. Pennel conducted a school known as the "Male Seminary" in the building now standing at the northwest corner of Main and Schooley Streets. This school was afterwards conducted by Benjamin W. Lippincott. Hannah Warrington for many years conducted a school in her home which is still standing at 300 West Main Street, which was attended by some of our oldest residents.

Bartram Kaighn taught school in the western end of the building now standing at 13 East Main Street and occupied by Cluss's Bakery. David Bispham, the great singer, whose boyhood days were spent in Moorestown, attended this school and some of our older residents who were students at that time tell interesting anecdotes about this celebrated man. David Bispham, a relative of the Stokes family, was a direct descendant of Joshua Bispham, who lived in the house now standing at the northwest corner of Main and Schooley Streets at the time of the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Stackhouse in his "A Retrospect of Colonial Times in Burlington County" gives us a very interesting account of the schools and customs of the early days. The cost of education in those days was exceedingly small. His grandfather taught school in Mount Holly in 1788 and it is evident from this article that he furnished his pupils with

"firing, pens, ink and paper" and that the parents paid "ten shillings for small children in their letters, spelling and reading per quarter and fifteen shillings for writers and cipherers and the customary prices for superior branches of learning."

The following agreement made by Rachel Hunt, then a young woman twenty-one years of age, on Third month 21st, 1812, will doubtless prove of interest to all interested in the schools of our great-grandparents: "Rachel Hunt, Agrees to teach school in the Brick school house belonging to friends in Chester, at the rate of two dollars for each schollar per quarter, provided they will make a sufficient number, at least not less than 20, to teach reading, writing, sewing, marking and grammar if the employers desire it. To commence 4th mo. 27th, 1812. Each employer to pay his equal dividend for fire wood according to the number of schollars sent; she finding quills and ink."

XI

Libraries and Literary Societies

THE first library in Moorestown of which I have any knowledge, was organized at a meeting held on May 9th, 1808 at the home of Samuel Haines to consider the forming of a Library Association. John Kaighn was elected Chairman of the meeting and Hugh Hollinshead, Secretary. The Moorestown Library Company was organized and a Constitution and By-Laws adopted at this meeting. The object of the Association was "to promote useful knowledge and Christian virtue" which they wisely decided could be accomplished in the most effective manner by the establishment of a library of carefully selected books for the use of the public. A careful perusal of the seventy-seven volumes first selected which are listed in the latter part of the printed copy of the Constitution and By-Laws now in the Public Library, would indicate that the Association made an earnest effort to carry out its purpose. Our library also has in its possession a book that was in this old library although not one of the original seventy-seven volumes. "An abridged edition of Mr. Locke's Essay Concerning Humane Understanding" is the title of this ancient book which was published in 1734. I cannot state how long this library was in existence.

Our present Moorestown Free Library is the outgrowth of the Moorestown Library Association of Friends organized in 1853 by a group of Friends who met for the purpose in the Stone School House that stood between the two meeting houses where the school building now stands. I cannot state definitely whether this Association was the outgrowth of the Library Company organized in 1808. It may be that the earlier Library had ceased to function or possibly our conservative Quaker ancestors objected to the works of fiction to be found upon its shelves. Members of the Religious Society of Friends only were eligible to membership in the

new Association. No novels, romances or works of immoral character were allowed in the Library. The annual dues were $1.00 and each member was allowed to take out two volumes which could be kept for two weeks after which a fine of one cent per day was imposed. At first non-members paid five cents for each book taken out but the By-Laws were changed in 1854 so that they could obtain books by paying $1.00 per year under the same conditions as members.

The new Library opened with one hundred and twenty-four volumes. Its first home was on the second floor of Haines's and Buzby's store which was located on the north side of Main Street near the Burlington County Trust Company. John W. Buzby was the first custodian of books. In 1866 it was moved to Howard Leeds' jewelry store but did not remain there very long as Mr. Leeds moved from Moorestown in the following year. Its next home was in the millinery shop of Angeline Adams who served as custodian of the books. The Library was transferred to Sarah Davis' millinery shop in 1871. Miss Davis was paid Twenty Dollars a year for her services as librarian which was an increase of Eight Dollars per year over her predecessor. Its next home was on the second floor of George Doughten's store, now the William H. Matlack Company's store, located at the northeast corner of Main Street and Chester Avenue.

In 1876 the Library having grown to four hundred and forty volumes, a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of securing larger and more permanent quarters. At first it was decided to build a Library building on the Meeting House grounds and although permission was granted by the Preparative Meeting the plan was not carried out. The old Stone School House was enlarged in 1878 by the addition of a brick building on the north side. This was a one story building and part of it was secured for the Library. This was its home until 1888 when the Library Association obtained permission from the Meeting to add a

second story for its exclusive use. Twenty-one Hundred Dollars was raised by subscription for this purpose.

The Library then consisted of approximately nine hundred volumes. Many books were added about this time and William Kite of the Friends' Free Library of Germantown was engaged to rearrange and classify the books. In 1895 the Constitution was revised and the name changed to the Moorestown Free Library Association of Friends. Article I, stated that the Library shall be known as the Moorestown Free Library and shall be under the care of the Religious Society of Friends. Annual dues were abolished and it was to be supported in the future by voluntary contribution. The Library was opened to all persons of good habits who were willing to comply with the regulations. It is interesting to note that novels and romances were not prohibited in the revised Constitution. The Library then contained about fifteen hundred volumes and a card index system was installed by a trained Librarian. The Association was incorporated in 1907.

After a somewhat nomadic existence of seventy-five years, the Library was moved to its present home in our beautiful Community House which was presented to the people of Moorestown in 1926 by Eldridge Reeves Johnson. Prior to this time, although open to the public, it had been supported entirely by contribution. In 1927 the By-Laws were changed so that other than Friends could serve on the Board of Directors and it is now controlled by a board of nine members. The Library Association asked for an annual appropriation of Three Thousand Dollars which thus far has been approved by the voters. About one-third of the cost of maintenance is still raised by private subscription. Each subscriber becomes a member of the Association and at the annual meeting three new directors are chosen to take the place of the three whose terms expire annually. The Library now contains seven thousand five hundred volumes and is constantly growing in size and usefulness. It now has an average daily circulation of two

hundred books including those obtained from the County Library at Mount Holly. Miss Hannah Severns is now Librarian and Miss Helen E. Wilmot and Miss Genevieve M. Earling are assistant Librarians.

Literary Societies

Most of us have forgotten or perhaps never heard of the Moorestown Literary Association which for many years contributed so largely to the intellectual life of the community. This Association was organized in 1854 by a group of influential and public spirited citizens. The organizers were Israel Heulings, Rev. H. Hastings Weld, Rector of the Episcopal Church, Dr. N. Newlin Stokes, Rev. E. D. Fendall, Pastor of the Baptist Church, Dr. Jonathan J. Spencer, John W. Buzby and Edward Harris, Jr. Mr. Heulings was elected President and Dr. Stokes, Secretary.

There was no public hall in Moorestown at that time and the Society rented the third floor of A. H. Burr's store, which was located next to the Burlington County Trust Company and fitted it up for a lecture room. A regular course of lectures was given in this room for three winters when it was found to be too small to hold all who desired to attend. The Association was incorporated in 1859 and an agreement made with the Township Committee under which the Association agreed to enlarge the "Townhouse" for the purpose of holding lectures and other entertainments. The Township Committee reserved the right to use the Hall when needed for Township purposes or to hold political meetings. Two hundred shares of stock at $5.00 per share were offered to the public and quickly subscribed. A thirty-two foot extension was added to the rear of the Hall and a lecture platform erected across the lower end. The first course of lectures was held during the winter of 1859-60, Daniel Dougherty, the "Silver Tongued Orator" being one of the lecturers. The Association was active until 1888 when the Township Committee made an agreement with the Women's Christian Temperance Union for the improve-

ment of the Hall to which the Association officially consented.

THE MOORESTOWN LYCEUM—This Association was organized in 1878 and met regularly in the Town Hall during the following six or eight years. This was also a community organization and their entertainments as a rule consisted of lectures by outside speakers although occasionally home talent meetings were held. Dr. Pusey Wilson and Gilbert Aitken of Moorestown were among the charter members and the former was probably the first President. Mr. Aitken has a programme dated April 18th, 1879, showing that the entertainment for the evening consisted of "Readings and Recitations by Ama Burnette." An admission fee of ten cents was usually charged to cover the cost of the outside entertainers.

FRIENDS' LITERARY SOCIETIES—The Reading Circle and the Parlor Literary Society now as extinct as the Mastodon that once roamed through the forests of Burlington County, although not exclusively Quaker institutions, have always flourished on Quaker soil. They contributed largely to the intellectual development as well as to the social enjoyment of the passing generations. I cannot in this brief sketch mention all of these Societies but believe that it will be of interest to many to review those which were perhaps the most active.

The Hicksite Friends seem to have been the first to occupy the literary field. The Moorestown Reading Circle organized on Eleventh month 19th, 1859, at the home of Isaac Collins, is the oldest of which I have any knowledge. Its first officers were Clayton Conrow, President, John S. Collins, Vice President, and Martha C. Lippincott, Secretary and Editor of "The Youth's Gazette" which was published semi-monthly. The object of the Association, as stated in its Constitution, was "the improvement and enjoyment of all connected with it in debating, social advancement and general literature." The entertainments were all home talent and consisted of readings, recitations,

essays and debates. Such questions as "Is Childhood the Happiest Period of Human Life?" and "Have Men of Thought been more Beneficial to the World than Men of Action?" were seriously and doubtless at times humorously debated at these meetings. The Society met at the homes of its members at six forty-five o'clock.

The Crescent Literary Society—This Society was organized at the home of Samuel Holmes in Fellowship in 1879. Samuel C. Roberts was elected President and Anna R. Holmes, Secretary. The meetings were held at the homes of its members and the entertainments were all home talent and doubtless somewhat similar in nature to those given by the Moorestown Reading Circle. The minute book of this Association has apparently been lost or mislaid and consequently I have not been able to learn as much about its activities as I have of the other Literary Societies. The surviving members hold an annual picnic and a Thanksgiving Day dinner at which happy memories of the "good old days" are revived.

The Crystal Literary Society—The Crystal which followed the Crescent was organized in Eleventh month, 1884, at the home of Jesse Lippincott. William C. Coles was elected President and S. Lucy Middleton, Secretary. Although it was not distinctly a Temperance Association, all members during the early years at least were asked to sign the pledge. The organization of this Society as well as of the Women's Christian Temperance Association followed a visit to Moorestown by Major and Mrs. E. J. Scott, who gave a series of temperance lectures in Moorestown at that time. The Association met at the homes of its members and the entertainments were similar in nature to those given by the Crescent.

The Minerva Literary Society—This Society, organized at the home of J. Wilmer Lundy at Centreton on Sixth month 4th, 1887, was apparently the largest and most active of those already mentioned. J. Wilmer Lundy was elected President and Emily Atkinson, Secretary. It is

interesting to note that a four-fifths vote was required to elect new members, and that all new members when initiated were required to shake hands with those present. The initiation fee was fifteen cents and the annual dues fifteen cents. The entertainments were all home talent and similar in nature to those given by the Crystal and Crescent Societies. Each meeting was opened by singing a hymn and as our Quaker ancestors did not encourage music, either instrumental or vocal, I assume that discords were not infrequent. The Minerva, like the Crescent, holds annual picnics and Thanksgiving dinners which doubtless are delightful occasions to all who attend.

THE RAMBLERS—The Ramblers, which is still an active Association, was organized in the Fall of 1889 by a small group of Friends who were not altogether satisfied with the entertainments given by its predecessor, the Moorestown Literary Union. The Union was organized in December, 1888, and met regularly in Grange Hall until the summer of 1891. Its entertainments were mostly home talent. I regret that I cannot give the names of its organizers and first officers. The most active members of the group which organized the Ramblers were Robert F. Engle, Walter J. Buzby, Henry W. and Sarah Roberts Leeds, Sarah Matlack Bell, Georgianna Buzby and Edward S. Harmer. During the first few years the Ramblers was a very small and informal society which met at the homes of its members. Its entertainments in the early days were home talent. A member would be asked to give a talk on some foreign country or interesting section of our own country or perhaps tell of an interesting trip taken during the previous summer, hence the name, Ramblers. These lectures were frequently illustrated by lantern views.

Its members, however, had dreams of greater things and in the Fall of 1894 the Society decided to hold its meetings in Grange Hall or the Friends' Academy and invite prominent lecturers to address the meetings after the manner of the Friends' Lyceum of Philadelphia. Edward S. Harmer

was elected President and should be remembered as the first President of the modern Ramblers. For several years, however, the Society clung to its traditions and at least one home talent meeting was held during the winter. Many of us will recall with great pleasure the Tea Meetings which for many years were an annual event. Supper was served to the members and their guests, after which a social hour was enjoyed before the lecture. The Society grew rapidly and not infrequently it was found necessary to hold the meetings in the Town Hall.

In 1917 the Society decided to hold all meetings in the Public School Auditorium or the Criterion Theatre and to invite all who were interested to attend the lectures and entertainments. Fewer but higher class entertainments are now being given. The public is invited to contribute to the budget but all are welcomed to the entertainments. Prior to 1917, when the Society was under the control of the Friends, invitations were freely sent to those specially interested but the meetings were not publicly advertised or the public invited as at present. The Ramblers is now a community institution and though some of us regret the passing of the social features of the former meetings, it cannot be denied that the Association is now rendering a greater service to the community. World famous men and women have lectured before recent Rambler audiences and the best musical talent brought to town for our enjoyment.

The Everon Literary Society—This Society was organized by a younger group of Friends than the Ramblers at the home of Joseph Evans near Marlton in 1892. It met at the homes of its members, many of whom were farmers' sons and daughters and its entertainments were largely home talent. It had an active and successful career until comparatively recent years. It is interesting to note in passing that each succeeding Literary Society was organized by the younger brothers and sisters who had literary aspirations of their own but who were not quite old enough to be welcomed in the parent organization. Oftentimes there

was a good natured rivalry between the older and more active association and the new society.

The passing of these parlor meetings with their social as well as intellectual pleasures which we of the older generation so greatly enjoyed, is undoubtedly a loss to the community. Uncles and Aunts, Grandfathers and Grandmothers were invited when the Crescent or the Ramblers met at "our house" and perhaps the greatest value of these meetings was the mingling of the old and young in social enjoyment.

XII

Our Neighbor, Mount Laurel

A VISIT to Mt. Laurel which was established at about the same time as Moorestown is well worth while especially in the spring and summer months when nature is at her best. The beautiful Mount which rises to the majestic height of 173 feet above sea level and the old Quaker Meeting House are the main objectives. In the record of the survey of land for William Evans, the first settler in the vicinity of Mount Laurel—formerly called Evesham—the Mount was referred to as Mount Pray. This may have been the Indian name for the Mount or possibly it was so called by the early hunters and forest rangers. In the early days it was known as Evans' Mount and Evesham Mount. The name Mount Laurel was suggested by Miss Hannah Gillingham who taught in the Friends' School and who greatly admired the laurel that grew in profusion on its sides. The name was so appropriate that it was adopted by the government for the village when the post office was established in 1849. The greater part of the Mount now belongs to the State and is part of the State forest reservation.

Prior to the establishment of telegraph lines between Philadelphia and New York, shortly after Professor Morse's invention in 1844, there was a line of signal towers[1] across the state by which messages could be quickly sent from city to city. These were owned and controlled by Wm. C. Bridges & Co., stock brokers and merchants of Philadelphia. The first station was located on Mount Laurel, the second on Arney's Mount which is located about three miles northeast of Mount Holly, but I am unable to state where the other stations were situated. Near the top of the tower

[1]This story as well as the one following about the kidnappers is based on a very interesting pamphlet written by the late Wm. R. Lippincott, entitled "Traditions of Old Evesham."

which extended above the highest trees there was a small room for the operators who controlled the signals at the top by a system of ropes and pulleys. Quoting from the article referred to in the footnote "the signals consisted of a long finger much like the railroad signals now in use (1911). The raising of this finger to a certain position was one signal then it worked in conjunction with a signal board something on the order of a blind shutter. The finger and the signal board could be placed in many different positions and every position had its meaning." The operators read the signals from the next station by means of powerful telescopes. The messages were in code and could not be read by the operators. It would be interesting to know how quickly messages could be sent by this route but doubtless the owners received market quotations from their New York agent many hours ahead of their competitors.

Another interesting story is told in "The Traditions" about a group of kidnappers who made the Mount their rendezvous a few years before the Civil War. A free colored man named Johnson, with his wife and three children, lived at that time on the farm on the northern side of the Mount. The mother and children who had not been freed were seized by the kidnappers and carried off to the South. The neighbors were indignant and a fund of $1,000. was quickly raised for their redemption. Thomas Haines Dudley, a young man living in the neighborhood, volunteered to follow them and attempt their recovery. He disguised himself as a southern slave trader and started at once on his dangerous mission. The fugitives were overtaken near the head of the Elk River in Maryland and in his assumed character of a dealer who was buying slaves to take South, he purchased the mother and sixteen months old baby for $150.00. He treated them so roughly and his disguise was so perfect that the terrified mother did not recognize him. He started South with his newly acquired property but soon made a sharp detour and traveled North

as rapidly as possible. Of the other children the boy was purchased in Baltimore for $90.00 but as far as I can learn his sister was not recovered. Mr. Dudley did not make known his identity until they were safely on the boat at Wilmington bound for the North, when he said to her, "Don't you remember Nancy Dudley's little boy Tom, who used to play pranks upon the cows you milked at Evesham?" We can readily imagine the mother's joy when she learned she was homeward bound.

The Friends' Meeting House is the most interesting building in or near Mount Laurel. The eastern end erected in 1760 is the oldest Friends' Meeting House in the County with the exception of Upper Springfield, located about three miles east of Jobstown which was built in 1727. The Springfield Meeting House, unfortunately, was burned in 1909 and the building now standing, with the exception of the roof, was constructed from the old material. The Mount Laurel Meeting House is pleasantly located in a grove of trees at the intersection of the Moorestown and Haines-port Roads. It is built of Jersey sandstone which was quarried on the Mount. Dr. W. W. Gardiner of Moores-town, who was born and raised on the farm on the northern side of the Mount, gave me a most interesting account of how ironstone somewhat similar in appearance was quarried in the neighborhood. Ironstone is a stratified rock and is generally located about twelve inches below the sur-face. It was used a great deal in the construction of the earlier buildings of Burlington County, especially in the walls and foundations of houses and barns. If building material was needed firm rock would be located by means of a sharp pointed rod. The strata of rock would then be uncovered and stones of the required size cut out with pointed iron pins shaped somewhat like harrow teeth. It is a rather soft stone and oftentimes was not suitable for building purposes. Sandstone was quarried from the Mount or on the higher ridges.

William and Elizabeth Evans were the first settlers in the vicinity of Mount Laurel. William Evans was the son of William Evans, the Welsh immigrant, who arrived in 1680 and settled on a 323 acre tract on the northern side of Northampton River, now known as Rancocas Creek. In 1687 William Evans, Sr., located 300 acres in Evesham Township near Mount Pray which is now known as Mount Laurel, on which his son, William, settled shortly after his marriage in 1693 to Elizabeth Hanke. This tract evidently included most of the land on which the village now stands and in all probability included the Mount. An old deed dated 1717 shows that William Evans transferred one acre and thirty-two perches to the Society of Friends for Meeting purposes and "for a place to bury their dead forever." This interesting old graveyard which adjoins the Meeting House on the east has not been used for many years. According to family tradition, William and Elizabeth Evans lived for a while in a cave or dugout supposed to have been located at the foot of the Mount. Woodward's "History of Burlington County" states that William Evans died in this cave in 1728 but this is undoubtedly an error as the Meeting Records show that Meetings were held in his house as early as 1694. These hardy pioneers evidently had no fear of the Indians as their home was located at the intersection of two trails, one of which led from the Delaware River near Riverton through the pines to the seashore. William Evans' family Bible which he directed should be left to the oldest son of each generation is now in the possession of W. Henry Evans of Moorestown.

The Engles, Masons and Haskers had previously settled near Darnell's Mills about three miles east of Mount Laurel and during the next few years the Eves, Haines and Darnell families located in the neighborhood. In 1695 the Friends living in that section petitioned Burlington Monthly Meeting for permission to "set up" a Meeting at Evesham. Permission, however, was not granted until 1698. A Meeting House, doubtless a small affair, was im-

The Mary Lippincott School, a famous boarding school for girls in the last half of the Nineteenth Century.

Courtesy of Gilbert Aitken

Old District School known as the Friendship School which originally stood at the southeast corner of Second and Church Streets.

Mount Laurel Meeting House—a beautiful example of the old country Quaker Meeting House.

Clinton's Headquarters near Mount Laurel occupied by General Clinton and Staff on June 19th, 1778.

mediately erected and is supposed to have stood very near the site of the present building. This first Meeting House at Mount Laurel was built a little before the erection of the first Meeting House in Moorestown and was undoubtedly the first place of public worship in this section of the County.

One wing of the British Army commanded by General Clinton passed over the "Great Road" leading from Haddonfield to Mount Holly in June, 1778 and camped on the night of the 19th at Evesham (now Mount Laurel). This old road passed north of the present Meeting House and also north of the Mount. The building in which General Clinton made his headquarters is still standing on the north side of the road leading from Mount Laurel to Evesboro about one and one half mile west of the former village. The farm on which the old building now stands is owned by Aaron Collins. The eastern end of the present Meeting House was standing at that time and was occupied by the British soldiers on that historic night. The Meeting House is still in good condition and is a splendid example of the Jersey Meeting Houses of the Colonial period. Within the memory of men now living the House was filled to overflowing at the First-day morning services but now scarcely a half dozen gather within its walls on the Sabbath Day and perhaps less at the mid-week meetings.

John Darnell, now in his eighty-sixth year, who has been a faithful worshipper in the old building since his boyhood days now appropriately sits at the head of the Meeting. He is a direct descendant of John Darnell, who married Hannah Borton, daughter of John and Ann Borton in 1722 and settled on a large farm situated about one and one-half miles east of the Meeting House. The Darnell family has been prominent in the affairs of the community since the earliest days and it is especially fitting that the faithful group of worshippers that gathers from Sabbath to Sabbath in the old Meeting House should be a gathering of the Darnell clan.

The first school in the neighborhood of Mount Laurel was established by the Friends in 1783 and was held in the original Meeting House. A brick school house was erected at the foot of the Mount nearly opposite the Meeting House during the later years of the Eighteenth Century and was used until about 1860 when it was torn down.

The farmers of Mount Laurel and vicinity have been a progressive group from the earliest days. In 1865 "The Progressive Farmers Club" of Burlington County was organized with headquarters in Mount Laurel. During the first year or two the meetings were held at the homes of the various members but in 1867 a hall was erected in the village for the use of this organization. This hall is still standing near the intersection of the roads. The Association held two annual exhibitions, one in September and one in December. The records of the Association show that it had a membership of 110 in 1875.

XIII

Colestown, the Deserted Village

FEW Moorestonians, with the exception of the older generation, realize that in the early days there was a small but thriving village within three miles of Moorestown that has vanished from the face of the earth as completely as the fabled Atlantis. The ancient village of Colestown[1] was situated on the south branch of Pensauken Creek about three-quarters of a mile southeast of the Cemetery. It stood on a winding road known locally as "Crooked Lane" leading from the Haddonfield to the Fellowship Road near the present village of that name. This road originally started at the King's Highway near Colestown Cemetery, and joined the "Great Road" leading from Haddonfield through Evesboro and Mount Laurel to Mount Holly near the village of Fellowship. The Lane on the Joshua Roberts farm, now owned by Clayton Andrews, is part of Crooked Lane. This Lane starts about one-half mile northeast of the intersection of the Haddonfield and Church Roads and leads down to the creek where the ruins of the old bridge may be seen. The bridge collapsed in about 1914 and since then the Road has been abandoned. The banks of the creek are high and picturesque at this point and it is a most delightful spot for those who love to commune with nature. Just above the bridge, Roberts' saw mill formerly stood and the mill pond extending almost to Church Road was a favorite resort of the young people of the neighborhood both in summer and winter. On the eastern side of the stream the old road turned to the right and ran near the stream for perhaps one hundred yards where it turned sharply to the left and

[1] I am indebted to my friends, Samuel R. Coles of Moorestown a direct descendant of the pioneer Samuel Cole, and Chalkley Matlack of Colestown, also to the "Traditions of Evesham Township" by William R. Lippincott for this account of the old Colestown Village.

continued in a reasonably straight line to the Fellowship Road a little to the northwest of its junction with Lenola Road. The old village of Colestown was located on this Road near the stream.

Colestown, which received its name from Samuel Coles one of the earliest settlers in the neighborhood, contained several houses, two stores, a blacksmith shop and the famous Fountain Hotel or Tavern as it was doubtless called in those days. Near the Tavern there was a Mineral Spring whose waters were supposed to have been medicinal. The water was analyzed by a well-known chemist and the analysis chiseled on a stone near the spring. I regret that the mineral contents of the water have not been preserved but doubtless it contained iron with a slight trace of sulphur. The hotel was a famous resort for many years. The beauty of its surroundings, the nearby mill pond which was almost large enough to be called a lake, as well as the life giving waters, attracted the young as well as the old. For many years it was the fashionable resort of the neighborhood and a week-end at the Fountain Hotel was analogous to a week-end visit in modern times to our favorite seaside or mountain resort. The waters of the spring may not have been potent but a few days rest at the hotel and quiet walks through the beautiful woods, doubtless rejuvenated our grandparents who were weary with home and business cares. The young people no doubt enjoyed a cup of water from the famous spring after a stroll through the woods or a moonlight ride on the mill pond. The hotel was moved about 1830 and is now part of the first house on the northern side of Church Road after crossing the creek if traveling toward Evesboro. Nothing remains to mark the site of the old hotel excepting a depression in the ground near the bank of the stream.

Samuel and Elizabeth Coles, for whom the village was named, arrived from England in 1682 and first settled on Cooper's Creek near the Delaware River. In 1685 he purchased 500 acres on the south branch of "Pensoakin" Creek

from Jeremiah Richards and a little later 300 acres adjoining from Richard Heritage. Samuel R. Coles of Moorestown has the original deed in his possession. The Colestown Cemetery is located on the original tract. The plantation was known as "New Orchard" and the house stood near the present homestead on the southwest corner of the Haddonfield & Church Roads. It was pleasantly located on a knoll commanding a beautiful view of meadowland and the winding picturesque Cropwell Creek as the south branch of the Pensauken was called in the early days.

The present village of Colestown is largely "A City of the Dead." Many worthies of "ye olden" as well as of modern times are buried in this well kept cemetery. To those of us who are historically minded the monument standing in the cemetery near Church Road which marks the site of old St. Mary's Episcopal Church, is the most interesting spot in the immediate neighborhood. The brick walk leading up to the monument, originally led from the King's Highway to the old church. St. Mary's was erected in 1751 and was unfortunately burned to the ground in 1899. It was an unpretentious building without steeple, belfry or stained glass windows and the interior was correspondingly plain. It undoubtedly had its origin in the Keithian controversy. George Keith, that brilliant Scotch schismatic, who was in turn Presbyterian, Quaker and member of the Church of England, preached in the home of William Heulings which was located in the neighborhood of Colestown on September 15th, 1703 as recorded in his Journal. This was shortly after the establishment of St. Mary's Church in Burlington. Other services were held from time to time in the homes of those who belonged to the Church of England on their arrival or were converted by the powerful preaching of Keith. Among these were the Heulings, Wallis and Rudderow families.

Thomas Rudderow the progenitor of the family in Burlington County, lived between the two branches of Pensauken Creek, not far from Fork Landing. He died in

1729 and in his will bequeathed Ten Pounds "towards the building of a Church in that place to be convenient hereaway." This fund doubtless was used in the erection of the Church in Colestown in 1751. For many years the Church was a mission under the care of Christ Church, Philadelphia. It was used very little after the erection of the beautiful stone Episcopal Church in Moorestown in 1837 which formerly stood at the northwest corner of Main and Church Streets.

Almost every foot of land in the neighborhood of the Colestown Cemetery is historic, especially the section which lies between the Cemetery and the north branch of Pensauken Creek. The old Matlack homestead standing at the Northeast corner of Fellowship Road and School House Lane was erected in about 1753 by William Matlack the grandson of the pioneer of that name. This house stands on the original 100 acre tract surveyed for William Matlack in 1682 and is still owned by a member of the family. Directly across School House Lane from the Matlack homestead stands the old Buzby House, which in the early days was a celebrated Tavern. The King's Highway ran directly between these two old houses and the Ferry Road leading to Spicer's Ferry, over Cooper's Creek, near where the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge is now located branched from the King's Highway at this point. There was also a store located near the Tavern in the early days and the settlement was known as "Farmer Town." The portion of School House Lane leading to the Haddonfield Road is part of an old road that formerly led from King's Highway near the Buzby House and passing through Fellowship joined the "Great Road" leading from Haddonfield to Mount Holly a little west of Evesboro. The old brick school house erected by the Friends in 1785 and still standing near School House Lane formerly faced this old Road and not King's Highway as stated by some writers. The Highway passed about 200 yards north of the School House. It was very

conveniently located near the junction of King's Highway, the Ferry Road and the road leading to Evesboro.

The King's Highway from this point followed the general course of the lane leading to Lindley Gardiner's residence on the Reuben Matlack farm which is now owned by Chalkley and Mary Matlack who are direct descendants of Reuben and Elizabeth Coles Matlack. Reuben Matlack's blacksmith shop erected in 1787 is still standing near the Gardiner residence and is especially interesting to the Friends of Moorestown and vicinity for the reason that the iron latches, hinges, etc., in the old brick Meeting House in Moorestown erected in 1802, were made in this shop. The Highway passed between the shop and the old Matlack homestead which stood in the rear of the Gardiner residence and from thence down the back lane to the south branch of Pensauken Creek. The old Reuben Matlack homestead was unfortunately burned in 1911. Chalkley Matlack, now living on the farm, is greatly interested in the early history of the community and of the Society of Friends. He is preparing an album or series of albums with views of all the old Quaker Meeting Houses of Pennsylvania as well as of New Jersey, which when completed, will be of great historic value. The pictures of each Meeting House are accompanied by a brief historical sketch of the Meeting.

XIV

Westfield and Neighborhood

OUR neighbor, Westfield, formerly known as Lower Chester, is pleasantly located at the intersection of Burlington Pike and the Road leading from Riverton to Moorestown. Not a few of those living in or near the village are descendants of the pioneer settlers. The Conrows probably were the first of these to settle in the neighborhood. In 1683, Matthew Allen, who purchased three thousand two hundred acres of land on the Delaware River between Swedes Run and the Rancocas in 1680, conveyed by deed of gift five hundred acres each to Jacob and Isaac "Conoroe" alias Allen, who apparently were his step-sons. Nathan Conrow, whose home is located on the New Albany Road near Burlington Pike, is descended from Isaac and Sarah "Conoroe."

The Westfield Lippincotts are descended from Thomas Lippincott, son of Freedom and Mary Curtis Lippincott and grandson of Richard and Abigail, the progenitors of the family in West Jersey. Thomas Lippincott purchased a tract in the neighborhood containing 1034 acres from Thomas Stevenson on Eighth month 24th, 1711 for One hundred and Seventy-six Pounds. This tract lay between the Pensauken and Pompeston Creeks and extended northward to the headlands of the farms fronting on the Delaware River. The southern line started on the Pensauken a little above Fork Landing and ran in a northeasterly direction to Pompeston Creek "at the corner of Joseph Stokes' land." Thomas Lippincott married Mary Haines, daughter of John and Esther Haines, in Ninth month, 1711 and settled on the "Samuel L. Allen farm" near Westfield, now owned by Harry Shea. This farm is part of the original Lippincott tract.

The farm at the southeast corner of Burlington Pike and the Riverton Road, now owned by Benjamin Lippincott,

also is part of the original Lippincott tract and portions of it have been in the family from the time his pioneer ancestor settled in the neighborhood in 1711. The present homestead is the second that stood on the premises. It was erected in 1859 and according to family tradition, the family lived in the wood shed while their new home was being erected.

Joseph Stokes, the ancestor of Dr. Joseph Stokes and the Stokes brothers, Bispham, Cheston and James of Moorestown, was one of the earliest settlers in the vicinity of Westfield. In 1708, he purchased a two hundred acre tract fronting on the Riverton Road a little south of Westfield and extending back to Pompeston Creek. The Thomas Lippincott tract of 1034 acres surveyed a few years later joined the Stokes farm on the north. Joseph Stokes' first wife, Judith Lippincott Stokes, was a sister of the pioneer, Thomas Lippincott. The beautiful estates of Alexander C. Wood, Jr., Edward S. Wood and Charles Evans, whose homes are adjoining, are part of the original Joseph Stokes farm. According to family tradition the first Stokes' homestead was located on the eastern side of Pompeston Creek near the old house now standing on the Campbell Soup Farm No. 2. Alexander and Edward S. Wood and their sister, Mrs. Charles Evans, are direct descendants of Joseph and Judith through their mother, Mary Emma Stokes Wood.

"Ivystone" formerly the home of Samuel L. Allen, now owned by Harry Shea, historically speaking is the most interesting building in or near Westfield. This old homestead stands on or very near the site of the first house erected by Thomas Lippincott in 1711. The western end which is the frame part was erected about 1756 and the eastern end built of native Sandstone in 1800.

There is also a very interesting old brick building standing on the farm on Garwood Road now owned by Frank Jessup and used by him as a tenement house. This building was erected by Darling Conrow, great-grandfather of

Nathan Conrow at the time of his marriage to Deliverance Stokes in 1740 and was enlarged by him in 1751. The date stone on the western end reads, "D. and D. C. 1751."

The origin of the names Westfield and Cinnaminson is quite interesting. The first Friends' Meeting House erected in 1801 stood in Thomas Lippincott's west field. The Meeting became known as the "west field" Meeting and gradually the name Westfield was applied to the village. When the Post Office was established in 1835 it was called Cinnaminson as there was already a Westfield Post Office in Union County. Cinnaminson is an Indian name meaning "sweet water." Judge William Parry in a paper read at a meeting of the West Jersey Surveyors' Association many years ago, gave a most interesting account of the origin of the name. There was a group of sugar maple trees on the bank of the Delaware near Westfield and in the early Spring the Indians came from far and near to tap the trees for sap which they called "Se-ne-men-sing" meaning sweet water, and the neighborhood was known by that name. One old account states that the old Indian trail leading from the Delaware River to the seashore through Moorestown and Mount Laurel was known as the "Se-ne-men-sing" Trail in the early days. Judge John Clement, in his sketch of the Lippincott family printed in his "First Settlers in Newton Township" refers to a No-se-men-se-on tract "reserved for the Indians" but thus far I have not found a record of an Indian Reservation in this locality. The early Friends were very much interested in helping the Indians and it is entirely possible that a small tract was reserved in this community for some particular family or small group of Indians.

The first Friends' School in Westfield was established about 1788. It was taught by Abraham Warrington who married Rachael Evans in 1785 and probably was held in their home near Westfield. Abraham Warrington was the son of Thomas Warrington and grandson of Henry Warrington who arrived at Philadelphia in about 1700 and shortly afterwards settled on a farm located on the north branch

of Pensauken Creek a little above Fork Landing. A minute of Chester Preparative Meeting in 1789 reads as follows: "Trustees appointed in Twelfth month last to have the oversight of the school taught by Abraham Warrington made a satisfactory report." The following minute was recorded at Chester Preparative Meeting held on Sixth month seventh, 1791: "Proposal made by Abraham Warrington for procuring a lot of ground off of the upper corner of Samuel Shute's lands for erecting a school house thereon. The Meeting united and a committee was appointed." The Meeting records further show that this lot was purchased from Samuel Shute on Seventh month 27th, 1791 and doubtless the school house was erected shortly afterwards. This school stood on or very near the site of the present brick school house on the Riverton Road.

The original Meeting House erected in Thomas Lippincott's west field was located on Riverton Road where the present Friends' Meeting House stands. It was burned in 1859 and some of the old walls are supposed to be in the present building. The following quotation from a minute dated Third month 25th, 1797 taken from the records of Chester Preparative Meeting seems to definitely establish the location of the first Quaker Meeting and the first Quaker School House in Westfield:—"Purchased lot containing two and one-half acres between the Burlington Road (laid out in 1747) and Chester Lower School House lot for sole use of Friends in the compass of Chester Lower School."

At the time of the Separation in 1827, the Meeting House and the Friends' School near it were retained by the Hicksite Friends. The Orthodox Friends erected a small School House which stood on Branch Pike a little west of the present Orthodox Meeting House and for a number of years meetings were held in this building. The frame Meeting House was erected in 1848.

The atmosphere of Westfield from the earliest days has been distinctly literary and the Lyceum and Literary Society flourished in the days of our parents and grand-

parents. The Westfield Lyceum was perhaps the best known and most active of these societies. It was organized about 1876 and its meetings were held in the Friends' School House or in "Jake Harris' Hall" over the blacksmith shop. The leading men and women of the neighborhood were members of this Association. Perhaps the most active members were Dr. Joshua O. Janney, William R. Lippincott, father of Judge William D. Lippincott of Moorestown and Benjamin Lippincott of Westfield, Samuel L. Allen, Clayton Conrow, Charles and John Parry, Joseph Thomas, and Charles Stokes of Rancocas. The Warringtons were a prominent family in the neighborhood at that time and doubtless many of them were active in this Association.

The Westfield Reading Circle also was quite famous in its day. It was organized shortly after the Civil War and continued its activities for about ten years. It met at the homes of its members in and around Westfield and Moorestown and its entertainments consisted of debates, readings, essays, etc., by its members. It had a rule that all meetings should close at ten o'clock but according to tradition this rule was frequently broken or perhaps some Quaker lad slyly moved back the hands of the grandfather clock.

XV

The Lenni Lenape—Our First Residents

THE Lenni Lenape (Len-ah-pay) Indians, the original owners of New Jersey, belonged to the great Algonkin Nation. They were generally called the Delawares by the early Colonists for the reason that they occupied the valley of the Delaware River and adjacent territory. The natives called the Delaware River "Lenapewihittuck" which meant the Rapid Stream of the Lenape. The Indian name for New Jersey, or at least for that section near the ocean was "Scheyechbi" (Shay-ak-bee) meaning Long Land Water.[1] The Lenni Lenape Nation was divided into three sub-tribes known as the Minsi or Wolf Tribe, the Unami or Tortoise Tribe and the Unilachtigo or Turkey Tribe. The Minsies not infrequently called the Munsies or the Minisinks, occupied the mountainous regions of northern Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, the name meaning, "people of the stony country." The Unami were neighbors of the Minsies south of the Lehigh River and occupied the central portion of the State. The Unilachtigo, "people who lived near the ocean" dwelt in South Jersey and on the western shore of the River in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The Indians living in the neighborhood of Moorestown doubtless belonged to the Turkey Tribe.

The Iroquois, the most dominant of the Five Nations, lived in the valley of the Susquehanna River and in central and northern New York. They were called the Mengwe or Mingoes by their enemies the Lenni Lenape. The Delawares were subjugated by the Iroquois in 1725 and for many years were known as a "Nation of Women" for the reason that a conquered nation could neither declare war nor make peace. The humiliating "petticoat" was removed in

[1] "The New Jersey Indians" by Wm. O. Nelson, for many years Corresponding Secretary of the New Jersey Historical Society. This valuable book is very rare as only one hundred copies were printed.

1756. I regret that I cannot state even approximately how many Indians there were in Burlington County when the English settlers arrived in 1677. All of the early accounts agree that the country was not thickly populated. "The present State of the Colony of West Jersey" published by the Proprietors in 1681, stated that "there were few natives in the country but those that are, are very peaceful, useful and serviceable to the English inhabitants." They had already begun to degenerate as a race owing to the introduction of "fire water" by the Europeans who arrived early in the Century. The Indian Chiefs seemed to realize that their race was doomed. "For every white man that comes into the country," said an aged chief to an early settler, "two Indians will die." When the great comet of 1680, known in History as Newton's Comet, appeared in the sky, an Indian Sachem was asked what it signified. He replied solemnly, "it signifies that we Indians shall melt away and this country will be occupied by another people." Their numbers also were greatly reduced by the ravages of smallpox, a disease unknown in the American forests prior to the arrival of the white man. The natives knew nothing of its contagious nature and consequently it quickly spread from village to village.

The Indians were skillful in the use of herbs in treating disease but their treatment of smallpox, the most fatal of all diseases to the natives, was crude and barbarous. The victims were placed in the sweat house, an oven shaped hut covered with bark and earth and lined with clay. They were then given a steam bath by throwing water over red hot stones which had been rolled into the almost air tight room. When nearly exhausted they were taken out and given a steaming concoction to drink and then plunged in the nearest stream. A heroic and doubtless effective way of preventing over population.

The Indians of Burlington County were a friendly people and if treated kindly were good neighbors. The early settlers in their home letters repeatedly referred to the hos-

pitality of the natives; indeed, the first arrivals in the Fall of 1677 would have fared badly had it not been for the Indians who brought them food and helped them to erect temporary winter quarters. The natives were described by an early writer as "upright in person, straight of limb and grave even to sadness." They were courteous to strangers, the mat in the centre of the wigwam always being reserved for the guest. They lived in villages along the streams or near never-failing springs. These town or village groups were known as tribes or clans and not infrequently assumed the name of the nearest stream. Each clan had its own Sackaman (Sachem) or Chief.

The men married at the early age of 17 or 18, providing they had proved their manhood in the chase and not infrequently the brides were two or three years younger. The marriage ceremony, according to Smith's History, was quite simple. The groom handed his bride a bone, signifying that he pledged himself to supply the meat and she gave him an ear of corn as a pledge that she would provide the bread. Nelson, in his "History of the New Jersey Indians," states that the Indian maid desiring to be married crouched by the trail with covered face until the right young man appeared. She then uncovered her face, doubtless smiling sweetly, and if he was pleased they proceeded to her village and arranged the matter with her parents. It is interesting to note that a young brave was not permitted to marry a maid of the same clan. The Indians seemed to have had some very modern ideas, as the groom if he became dissatisfied with his bride would set her aside and proceed to select another wife.

The Indian wigwams were made by bending saplings to a common centre and binding them together with leather thongs or withes. The frame work was then covered with bark or skins an opening being left at the top for the passage of the smoke. Gabriel Thomas, who came over with William Penn in 1682, published a book entitled, "Historical and Geographical account of Pennsylvania and West

Jersey" in which he gives an interesting picture of the life and habits of the West Jersey Indians. "They are very loving to one another for if three or four of them came to a Christian home and the master of it happens to give one of them victuals and none to the rest, he would divide it in equal shares among them; and they are also kind and civil to the Christians for I, myself, have had victuals cut by them in their cabbins before they took any for themselves." Their chief occupation, continued the narrative "is hunting, fishing and fowling and making canoes and Indian boats. Their women's business chiefly consists in planting Indian Corn and pounding it to meal in mortars with pestles and making bread and dressing their victuals. They also make Indian mats, ropes, hats and baskets of their hemp which grows wild and natural in the woods in great plenty." These duties were of course incidental to their principal work of caring for the many children found in every village.

A few years after the English arrived at Burlington, an effort was made to arouse the Indians against them by saying that smallpox was brought to them on the match-coats which the English traded for pelts or provisions. One of the Indian Kings denied this, stating that it could not be true as their fathers and grandfathers suffered with smallpox long before the English came to America. Thomas Budd, one of three brothers who founded the Budd family in Burlington County published a book entitled "Good Order Established in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in America" in 1688 which tells of this and other interesting incidents in the early history of our County. Let us quote from this interesting paper. "The Indians told us in a conference at Burlington shortly after we came into the country, that they were advised to make war on us and cut us off while we were but few; for that we sold them the smallpox with the match-coats, therefore, we sent for the Indian Kings and told them we desired to live at peace with

them, that we had purchased the land from them and had endeavored to treat them justly in all dealings with them."

One of the Kings on behalf of the rest said, "Our young men speak such words as we do not like or approve of and we cannot help that and your young men may speak words that you do not like and you cannot help that. We are your brothers and we intend to live like brothers with you; we have no mind to have war for when we have war we are only skin and bones, the meat we eat does not do us good; we always are in fear, we have not the benefit of the sun to shine upon us, we hide us in holes and corners; we are minded to live at peace. If we intend at any time to make war upon you we will let you know of it and the reason why we make war with you; and if you make satisfaction for the injury done us then we will not make war upon you; and if you at any time intend to make war upon us we would have you let us know of it and the reason; and if we do not make satisfaction for the injury done unto you, then you may make war on us, otherwise you ought not to do it." Then followed these historic and memorable words, "you are our brothers and we are willing to live like brothers with you; we are willing to have a broad path for you and us to walk in and if an Indian be asleep in this path, the Englishman shall pass him by and do him no harm; and if an Englishman be asleep in this path, the Indian shall pass him by and say he is an Englishman, let him alone, he loves to sleep. It shall be a plain path; there must not be in this path a stump to hurt our feet."

Another conference with the Indians was held in Burlington about this time to consider the question of selling liquor to the natives. This problem had troubled the conscience of the Quakers from the moment they arrived on these shores. Indeed, the second act of the Monthly Meeting set up at Burlington in 1678, was to consider "the selling of rum unto the Indians" and whether it "be lawful att all for Friends professing truth to be concerned in itt." There were eight Indian Kings or Sachems living in the

neighborhood, all of whom attended this conference. The best known and undoubtedly the most intelligent of this group was King Ockanickon[2] a loyal friend to the English, whose body rests in the Friends' Burying Ground at Burlington. His funeral in 1681 was very largely attended by the Whites as well as the Indians. I like to think it was he who arose and on behalf of the others spoke as follows: "Strong liquor was first sold to us by the Dutch and they were blind, they had no eyes, they did not see that it was for our hurt. The next people who came among us were the Swedes who continued the sale of strong liquor to us; and they also were blind, they had no eyes, they did not see it to be hurtful to us to drink it, although we know it to be hurtful to us; but if people will sell it to us we are so in love with it we cannot forebear it. When we drink it, it makes us mad, we do not know what to do; we then abuse one another, we throw each other into the fire. Seven score of our people have been killed by reason of drinking it since the first time it was sold us. Now there is a people come to live among us who have eyes, they see it to be for our hurt. They are willing to deny themselves the profit of it for our good. These people have eyes, we are glad such a people are come amongst us; we must put it down by mutual consent; the cask must be sealed up; it must be made fast; it must not leak by day or by night, in the light nor in the dark; and we give you these four belts of wampum which we would have you lay up safe and keep by you to be witnesses of this agreement that we make with you."

[2]His name is spelled Okanishkon on the Deed transferring the first Tenth to the Commissioners.

XVI

The Passing of the Indian

THE white and red men lived peacefully together in Burlington County for many years. Gradually, however, misunderstandings arose between the races. The building of dams in the creeks, preventing the free passage of their canoes, the catching of deer in large steel traps and the selling of liquor to the natives were among the first complaints of the Indians. The Legislature, realizing that this feeling of dissatisfaction was increasing and also desiring to placate the West Jersey Indians because of the war-like activities of the northern and western tribes, appointed commissioners to investigate their grievances. The commissioners held a conference with the natives at Crosswicks in 1756 at which the Indians presented a long list of grievances, the most serious being cheating the natives when under the influence of liquor and the occupation of lands for which they had received no compensation. The commissioners recognized the justice of these claims and in March, 1757, the Legislature passed a Bill the object of which was the protection of the natives from further injustices. This Act prohibited the use of steel traps weighing more than 3½ pounds, declared an Indian could not be imprisoned for debt and that all sales made by an Indian for liquor be declared void. It also laid a penalty on all persons selling strong drink to the natives, "so as to intoxicate them."[1]

The occupation of lands for which the Indians had not been paid was a matter not so easily settled. The long list of such lands presented by the Indians at the conference held in 1756 showed that the white men were not living up to the standards of the first settlers, all of whom pur-

[1]The West Jersey Assembly passed an Act in 1681, prohibiting the selling of strong liquors to the natives. A fine of 3 pounds was imposed for each offense.

chased the land from the Indians as well as from the proprietors. Another conference was held in the "Great Meeting House" at Crosswicks in February, 1758, at which Teedyescong, King of the Lenni Lenape nation was present. Teedyescong was the last of the great Indian Kings who dominated the Delawares living in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He lived at the forks of the Delaware (Easton) and was converted to Christianity by the early Moravian Missionaries in 1750. He became a victim to the white man's "fire water" and was burned to death in his wigwam in 1763 while under its influence. Considerable progress was made at this conference in adjusting their differences.

Another conference was held at Burlington in August, 1758, at which the Indians asked that a certain tract of land in Evesham Township be purchased for the Indians living south of the Raritan River in exchange for which they agreed to release all claims to their lands in New Jersey. The Legislature acted favorably on this request and within three weeks' time appropriated 1600 pounds for purchasing the release of all Indian claims in New Jersey, one-half to be used for purchasing a tract for the settlement of the Indians living south of the Raritan River and the other half to purchase any latent claims of the back Indians by which was meant those living in north Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. This treaty was ratified by King Teedyescong at a conference held at Easton in October of the same year. A commission was appointed by Governor Bernard and a tract containing 3,044 acres was purchased on August 29, 1758 at Edge Pillock in Evesham Township. This reservation located at Indian Mills about sixteen miles southeast of Moorestown was tax free and no white man was allowed to settle on it or interfere in any way with the rights and privileges of the Indians. History records that about 200 Indians living south of the Raritan River settled on this tract. A village was built containing a number of homes, a saw mill and a house of worship. The

Governor very happily called the village "Brotherton" and the Indians on the reservation were long known as the Brotherton Indians.

The Rev. John Brainerd, the famous Presbyterian Missionary, was appointed Superintendent in 1762. John Brainerd was one of the outstanding characters in the early history of Burlington County. He was a graduate of Yale, a member of a wealthy and cultured family in Connecticut and doubtless gave up what would have proved to have been a brilliant career in the ministry to devote his life to the natives of New Jersey. He was ordained as a Minister in 1748 and was sent out as a Missionary to the Indians by the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge. He was first placed in charge of the Indian Mission at Bethel near Cranbury in Middlesex County which was founded and conducted for many years by his famous brother, David Brainerd, who broke down in health in 1747 and went home to die a marytr to his zeal for the Indians. John Brainerd was among the first to advocate the purchase of a tract of land for the fast disappearing Indians and it is interesting to note that the tract selected by the State at Indian Mills was the identical location which he advocated as early as 1754. In 1756 he made another effort to raise funds to purchase 3,000 acres in that vicinity and although considerable money was advanced for the purpose and the balance promised by the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge, the plan was not carried out.

The Friends of West Jersey were from the earliest days greatly interested in the welfare of the Indians. On April 16, 1757, a number of Friends of West Jersey organized the New Jersey Association for helping the Indians. The first article in their agreement provided that a tract containing 2,000 acres be purchased in Monmouth, Burlington or Gloucester Counties and "set apart for the use of the New Jersey Indians forever free of rent." 175 pounds was subscribed for the purpose but the plan was abandoned

probably for the reason that the State was becoming interested in the proposition. The Indians lived for many years on the Reservation, which as far as I can learn was the first State Indian Reservation established in the country but their numbers gradually decreased largely because the "bootleggers" of the day persisted in smuggling liquor into the reservation.

In 1801 the Brotherton Indians were invited by their relatives the Mohegans, an Algonkin tribe living at New Stockbridge near Oneida Lake, New York, to "pack up their mat and to come and eat out of their dish" and added that "their necks were stretched in looking toward the fireside of their grandfathers till they were as long as cranes." On receiving this invitation the Indians, greatly reduced in numbers and evidently greatly discouraged, petitioned the Legislature to sell their lands and turn the proceeds over to them so that they could join their kinsmen in New York. Governor Bloomfield appointed James Ewing, John Beatty, Abraham Stockton, William Stockton and Charles Ellis as commissioners to take the matter in charge. They visited the Indians on the reservation and as a majority of the adults, only about sixty-four in number, gave their assent in writing, the property was sold during the following year. A sufficient amount of money was given to the Indians to move them to New York, the balance being invested for their benefit. History records that there were only about eighty-five Indians living on the reservation at that time. Doubtless it was a sad and discouraged group who left their native land in 1802 and started on their journey to their relatives in New York.

In 1822 the Legislature received a petition from the remnant of the Delawares in New York asking that certain bank stocks which had been purchased by the New Jersey commissioners for their benefit be deposited in the Utica Bank as they desired to move to kinsmen living in Green Bay, Michigan. They also pointed out that they had received no compensation for their hunting and fishing rights

when they surrendered title to New Jersey lands in 1758 and prayed that compensation be made to them for same. The bank stock was transferred but the claim for compensation for their hunting and fishing rights was not upheld by the Courts.

Bartholomew Calvin, son of Stephen Calvin, the famous Indian school master of West Jersey, arrived in 1832 from Green Bay, the last home of the poor wandering Delawares with Power of Attorney to settle these claims. No legal claim could be established but out of compassion the Legislature directed the Treasurer to pay him $2,000. for the extinguishment of their claim. Chief Calvin, then an aged man, said in a letter to the Legislature in which he thanked them for this gift, "not a drop of our blood have ye spilled in battle, not an acre of our land have ye taken but by our consent, naught save benisons can fall upon you from the lips of a Lenni Lenape." The story of the passing of the South Jersey Indians is pathetic and at times tragic, yet we Jerseymen have every right to feel proud of our State in its telling. They received justice from the State and in the earlier days at least were treated kindly by the whites yet their number dwindled from year to year. The two civilizations would not mix or perhaps it would be more truthful to say that the Indian civilization could not withstand the attendant evils of Christian civilization.

"You have driven us from our lands but we have written our names on the face of the waters."

XVII

Old Moorestown Families

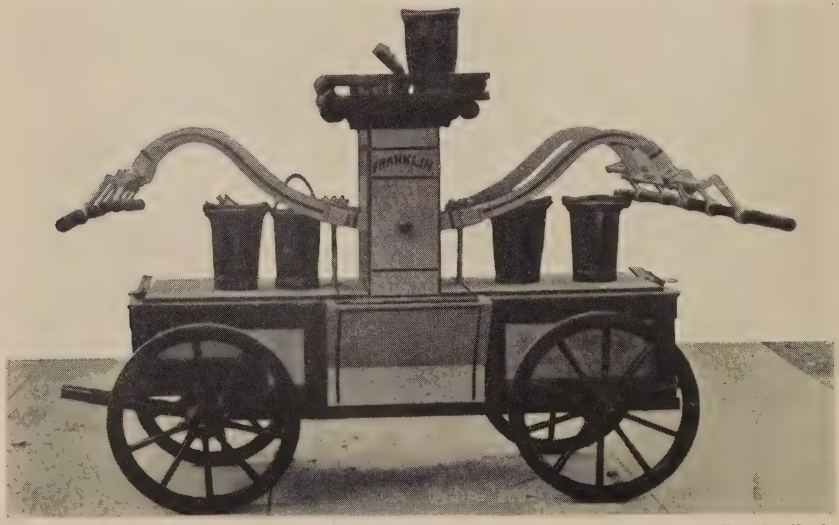
I SHALL endeavor in this sketch to give a complete list of the families living in or near Moorestown whose paternal ancestors arrived in Burlington County prior to 1700. The list is surprisingly long and I can do little more than give the names of the first arrivals, state whence they came and as nearly as possible where they first settled. Nearly all of the pioneer settlers in Burlington County were English Friends who suffered persecution in the Mother Country on account of their religious beliefs and sought a refuge in the wilderness of New Jersey where God could be worshipped according to the dictates of the individual conscience. They were self-reliant, God fearing men and women and we should ever hold their memory in honor for planting the banner of religious liberty on the banks of the Delaware River. In none of the early Colonial Charters is the principle of religious liberty more clearly or beautifully expressed than in the "Concessions and Agreements" which was the common law of West Jersey prior to the surrender of the Provinces to the Crown in 1702. "No man nor number of men upon earth have power or authority to rule over men's conscience in religious matters; therefore it is agreed and ordained that no person or persons whatsoever within the said Province shall at any time hereafter in any way or upon any pretense whatever be called in question or in the least punished or hurt either in person, privilege or estate for the sake of his opinion, judgment, faith or worship in matters of religion."

A few of the early arrivals had large estates in England but generally speaking they were yeoman, tradesmen or mechanics. Old deeds and documents show that not a few of our ancestors could neither read nor write. The founders of some of our most prominent and substantial families

Old Matlack Homestead on Fellowship Road erected about 1753.

Reuben Matlack's Blacksmith Shop in which the hinges, latches, etc., in the old Quaker Meeting House in Moorestown were made.

Old St. Mary's Church, Colestown, erected in 1751 and burned in 1899.
The first Episcopal Church in the neighborhood of Moorestown.



Courtesy of Hose Co. No. 1

The Franklin, a hand power fire engine of "Ye Olden Times."

came over as servants[1] to wealthy immigrants. The transportation of these young men or women which was "five pounds sterling with meals and one chest" was paid by their masters in return for which they signed an agreement or indenture to serve them for a certain number of years, usually four, from the time of their arrival in America. As a reward for their faithful services they were generally given 100 acres of land.

The following family names are arranged alphabetically for the convenience of the reader:

ANDREWS—English ancestry. Samuel Andrews and Mary Wright were married in Oyster Bay, Long Island, in 1663 and lived for a few years at Sandwich, Cape Cod, afterwards removing to Oyster Bay. It is interesting to note that Mary Wright was one of a trio of sisters who were powerful Ministers in the Society of Friends when mere girls. In 1658 they preached to Governor Endicott and his Council concerning the wickedness of hanging Mary Dyer and her three associates on Boston Common. At that time Hannah, who was the most forceful speaker of the three, was thirteen years of age. In 1684, Samuel and Mary Andrews settled on a tract containing about 525 acres in Mansfield Township, Burlington County, probably in the neighborhood of Mansfield which is located about one mile north of Columbus. Their children were Mordecai, Peter, Hannah, Edward, Jacob and Mary. Peter, Hannah and Jacob died in infancy. In 1699, Edward and Mordecai Andrews settled in Little Egg Harbor Township where Tuckerton now stands. Edward Andrews married Sarah

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[1]The following records taken from the New Jersey Archives throw an interesting sidelight on the status of the indentured servant. The following law was passed by the West Jersey Assembly in 1682:—"Servants over 21 transported or to be transported into this Province without indentures or other agreements shall serve 4 years from the time of arrival. Under 21 the time of service shall be set by the Court." Under date of July 25, 1681 I find the following memorandum of indenture of service:—"Sarah, daughter of Thomas Curtis, binds herself as servant for 4 years to Benjamin Scott, husbandman, bound for West Jersey for which he is to give her 40 acres."

Ong in 1694 and most of the family now living in or near Moorestown are descended from them.

BORTON—John Borton, a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" and Ann, his wife, from the Parish of Aynhoe, Northamptonshire, England, arrived at Burlington in 1679. "Hillsdown" the ancestral home of the Borton family originally containing 200 acres, was located on the south side of Rancocas Creek below Centreton and extended back to the village of Masonville. This tract was surveyed for John Borton on April 26th, 1682. The following record, however, published in the New Jersey Archives clearly indicates that they first settled on the northern side of the Creek. A memorandum of deed dated Third month 27th, 1680, reads as follows: "Daniel Wills of Rancocas New Jersey, Doctor of Physick, to John Boarton[2] of the same place, husbandman, for 110 acres, north grantor and south John Payne."

The children of John and Ann Borton were John, William, Ann, Elizabeth, Esther, Mary and Susanna. John Borton, Sr., died in 1687 and John, Jr., inherited "Hillsdown lying on ye south side of Northampton River being in quantity 300 acres or somewhat more" with the exception of a one-third interest left to his widow. William inherited the settlement "fronting upon Northampton River northward being in quantity 110 acres and somewhat more." This evidently was the farm on the northern side of the Creek adjoining Daniel Wills.

It is stated in the Genealogy of the Borton and Mason families, written by Freeman C. Mason, that John Borton, Jr. and William Borton "purchased land on the Northampton River (now Rancocas Creek) in Eighth month, 1681, 175 and 150 acres respectively." This is undoubtedly an error as John was then 12 years of age and William 9. The

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[2]The name Borton is spelled Boarton, Bourton and Bourten in the early records. It is evident that many of our ancestors spelled phonetically as the names of most of the old Burlington County families are spelled in various ways.

original record of this survey is very indistinct and looks more like 1687 than 1681. I believe 1687, the year in which John Borton, Sr. died is the correct date and that the survey referred to in the Borton Genealogy is a record of the division of the property under their father's will. Joseph Borton, a direct descendant of John and Ann, lived at "Hillsdown" until 1835 when he purchased 127 acres in Westhampton Township on the road leading from Rancocas to Burlington. C. Walter, J. Harvey and Wm. J. Borton of Moorestown, are descended from the pioneers, John and Ann.

Barton—Thomas Barton, a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" arrived from England in 1679. On October 24th, 1680, a tract containing 100 acres was surveyed for him on the northern side of Assiscunk Creek near the village of Jacksonville. He married Ann Borton, daughter of John and Ann Borton, the progenitors of the Borton family in Burlington County on Tenth month 8th, 1681 and doubtless settled on this tract. Their children were Edward, Thomas and John.

The Bartons living in or near Moorestown are descended from Edward who married Sarah Day on Ninth month 21st, 1706 or John, who married Ann Butcher in 1709. Thomas, who died in his 21st year was not married.

Buzby—John Buzby, weaver and Mary, his wife of Milton in the Parish of Shipton arrived at Philadelphia in 1682. Their children were John, William, Edward, Richard, Nicholas, Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah. William and Richard settled in the neighborhood of Frankford, Pennsylvania. Nicholas, the ancestor of the New Jersey branch, married Mary French, daughter of Thomas and Jane French, the progenitors of the French family in Burlington County, on Eighth month 30th, 1695 and settled in the neighborhood of Rancocas. It is interesting to note in passing that Richard married Hannah French, sister of Mary on the same day. The double wedding occurred in the old meeting house at Burlington.

In 1714, Nicholas Buzby purchased 280 acres on the north side of Rancocas Creek from his brother-in-law, Charles French. This was part of the original French tract located about two miles below the forks of the Creek. The Buzby farm came into the possession of Governor William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, in 1770 and is still known locally as Franklin Park. The Buzbys of Moorestown and Rancocas and Walter J. Buzby of Atlantic City, are descended from Amos, son of Nicholas and Mary Buzby and his second wife, Rebecca Matlack.

BALLINGER—Huguenot ancestry. According to family tradition there were five Ballinger brothers in France, one of whom was burned at the stake and one hanged during the persecutions of the Huguenots. The remaining brothers came to America in 1678. One settled in Virginia, one in Pennsylvania and the third, Henry Ballinger, progenitor of the family in Burlington County, settled in Evesham Township not far from the village of Evesboro. Henry Ballinger married Mary Harding on Ninth month 4th, 1684. A return of survey dated Fourth month, 1684, shows that 262 acres were surveyed for Henry Ballinger "at the Vale of Easham." This farm was located on the road leading from Evesboro to Medford about one and one-half miles east of the former village and is still known locally as the Ballinger farm. Although Henry and Mary Ballinger settled on this tract they apparently lived on the Rancocas for a year or two at least after their marriage. The Meeting record of the birth of their son, Thomas, on Sixth month 13th, 1685 reads, "Thomas Ballinger, son of Henry and Mary Ballinger of Northampton River." Their children were Thomas, John, Joseph, Henry, Elizabeth, Josiah, Amariah and Mary.

BIDDLE—William Biddle, cordwainer (shoemaker) of Bishopsgate Street, London and Sarah, his wife, founders of the Biddle family in Burlington County and Philadelphia arrived at Burlington in the summer of 1681. On

January 22d, 1676-7[3] William Penn, Gawen Lawrie and Nicholas Lucas, trustees for Edward Byllynge sold to "William Biddle, shoemaker of Bishopsgate Street, London, Thomas Ollive, haberdasher, of Wellingborough and Daniel Wills, practicioner in Chymestry of Northampton" a share of land in West Jersey.[4] A deed in trust dated April 4th, 1677 shows that Thomas Ollive and Daniel Wills conveyed to William Biddle "one-half the tract granted to both parties by William Penn *et al* on January 22d last." One thousand acres of his holdings in West Jersey were located on the ridge where the older portion of Moorestown now stands.

The records show that on First month 20th, 1681, William Biddle located 500 acres "abutting on Delaware River over against Sepassinck Island at the mouth of a small creek." Later in the year he purchased the Island containing 278 acres and for many years it was known as Biddle's Island. It is located directly opposite Kinkora Station on the Pennsylvania Railroad about three miles below Bordentown. Mount Hope, the name given to their new home was located on the river bank not far from the mouth of Craft's Creek. He added many acres to his holdings and became one of the largest land owners in Burlington County.

William Biddle was an active and influential man in the Friends Meeting, the Monthly Meetings being held at his home for a number of years. He was a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" and was prominent in the affairs of the Province, serving for many years as a member of the West Jersey Assembly, Land Commissioner, Justice for the Province and member of the Governor's Council.

Clark—William Clarke arrived from England in December, 1677, and in October, 1684, located 100 acres between the two branches of Pensauken Creek adjoining the planta-

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[3]Eleventh month, 1676 old style, or January, First month, 1677, new style.

[4]As near as I can learn a share of land after the surveys were made in West Jersey contained approximately 6400 acres.

tion of John and Sarah Roberts. He married Mary Heritage of Gloucester County in 1687. Their children were William, John, Joseph, Benjamin, Richard and Thomas. William, the eldest son, inherited the homestead. In Tenth month of the same year, 650 acres were surveyed for John Clarke (possibly a brother) and John Rudderow between the two branches of Pensauken Creek extending to the forks.

Thomas Clarke, carpenter and cabinet maker, married Mary Duhurst in 1693 and settled in Burlington City. Miss Sarah Woodward of Moorestown has a grandfather's clock, the cabinet of which was made by Thomas Clarke. Thomas Clarke served as the first parish clerk of St. Mary's Church, Burlington. He died in 1708, leaving a son, Thomas, and a daughter, Ollive. I cannot state definitely what his relationship was to William Clarke, the pioneer. I am rather of the opinion that Mary Heritage, who married William Clarke in 1687, was a second wife. If so, Thomas Clarke, the ancestor of Irving Wayne Clark of Bridgeboro Road, may have been a son of William and his first wife.

COLES—Samuel Coles, hatter, and Elizabeth, his wife, of Coles' Hill, Hertfordshire, England, arrived in America in about 1682 and located 500 acres on the Delaware River at the mouth of Cooper's Creek. The records show that on Third month 13th, 1676, William Penn, *et al*, conveyed one share of land in West Jersey to "Samuel Coale and Benjamin Barctlet." Samuel Coles sold one-twentieth of his interest in this share to Henry Wood and one eighth to Samuel Jennings shortly after his arrival. On Third month 11th, 1685, he purchased 500 acres with "dwelling house and buildings" on the south branch of Pensauken Creek from Jeremiah Richards for "one thousand pounds, two shillings and six pence, current silver money." Samuel R. Coles of Moorestown, a direct descendant, has the original deed in his possession. New Orchard, the name given to his plantation, was located on the Creek at the southwest corner of the Haddonfield and Church Roads. The homestead stood near the present buildings on this farm. A

little later in the year he purchased 350 additional acres from Richard Heritage.

Their children were Samuel and Sarah. Samuel married Mary, daughter of Thomas Kendall and on the death of his father in 1693, inherited the farm. Sarah married James Wild and settled in the neighborhood. Samuel Coles was active in the affairs of the Township and served for many years in the West Jersey Assembly.

Collins—Francis Collins, bricklayer and Sarah Mayham Collins of Ratliff, Parish of Stepney, arrived on the "Shield" (second voyage) in 1680. They evidently settled in Burlington for a few years as Francis Collins helped to build the first Meeting House and also the first Market and Court House. For the latter service he received a grant of 1000 acres, part of which was to be located above the Falls at Trenton. On June 2, 1677, William Penn, *et al,* conveyed one full share of land in West Jersey to Francis Collins, Richard Mew and Richard Bull. These men were all creditors of Edward Byllynge and this grant of land was evidently in satisfaction of their claims.

Shortly after his arrival in America, he located a tract containing almost 1000 acres in Gloucester County where Haddonfield now stands upon which they settled. This estate called "Mountwell" was inherited by Joseph, the only son of Thomas and Sarah Mayham Collins. Joseph was the father of Isaac Collins, the famous colonial printer. Sarah Collins died shortly after their arrival and in 1687 Francis Collins married Mary Goslin, widow of Dr. John Goslin. Aaron, Arthur, Irving and Lester Collins and as far as I know, all others bearing the name are descended from John, son of Francis and Mary Goslin Collins, who married Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Stokes Moore.

Francis Collins, the progenitor, was a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" and served his community for many years as Land Commissioner and member of the West Jersey Assembly.

CONROW—Huguenot ancestry. Daniel, Isaac and Jacob arrived from England in 1680. Daniel left no issue and probably died when a young man. Isaac and Jacob Conrow were supposed to have been step-sons of Matthew Allen, who purchased 3200 acres of land on the Delaware River lying between Swedes Run which empties into the river a little above Riverton and the Rancocas Creek from John Smith of Christeene Creek, Delaware on Eighth month 14th, 1680. Matthew Allen, by deed of gift recorded on May 12th, 1683, conveyed 500 acres of this tract to "Isaac Conoroe alias Allin out of good will and kindness which he hath and beareth unto the said Isaac Conoroe." On the same date he also conveyed 500 acres to his brother, "Jacob Conoroe alias Allin." A memorandum of deed dated October 23d, 1699, shows that "Jacob Conoroe" conveyed "500 acres to Abraham Hewlings of which 400 were conveyed to grantor as a gift from his father-in-law,[5] Matthew Allen, on May 12th, 1683."

The Conrows living in or near Moorestown at the present time are descended from Darling Conrow, grandson of Isaac, who built the old homestead still standing on the farm on Garwood Road, now owned by Frank Jessup and used by him as a tenant house. This old brick house was erected in 1751. The initials and date D. and D. C. 1751 may be seen on the western end of the building. These letters stand for Darling and Deliverance (Stokes) Conrow who were married in 1740. The eastern end of the building is undoubtedly the oldest and was probably erected by Darling Conrow at the time of his marriage in 1740 and enlarged in 1751.

DARNELL—The Darnell family of Burlington County is of English origin. John Darnell, the progenitor, arrived in New Jersey in the neighborhood of Salem about 1700.

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[5]In "The Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas French" it is stated they were stepsons of Matthew Allen and that stepfather and father-in-law meant the same thing in the early days. The word alias meaning otherwise called, would indicate that they were stepsons rather than sons-in-law.

He is supposed to have lost his life at sea. His son, John, married Hannah, grand-daughter of John and Ann Borton, the founders of the Borton family in Burlington County in 1722 and settled on a 400 acre tract in Evesham Township. This plantation was located on the road leading to Hainesport about one-half mile east of Mount Laurel. The Darnells were active and influential in the affairs of Evesham Township until quite recent years. John, Ezra, William and Harvey Darnell, of Moorestown, are direct descendants.

DeCou—Huguenot descent. Isaac DeCou and Rebecca, his second wife, arrived at New Castle, Delaware in Fifth month, 1686. Before leaving England he purchased a large tract of "unappropriated land" in Pennsylvania from William Penn, part of which was located in Buckingham Township, Bucks County. Isaac died shortly after his arrival and was buried at Chester. The children of Isaac and Susanna Ashton DeCou, his first wife, were Jacob, John, Isaac, Elizabeth and Emanuel. John did not marry and Emanuel died before the family left England. Isaac and Jacob settled in Burlington County prior to 1690.

Jacob married Elizabeth Newbold, widow of James Newbold and daughter of Robert and Prudence Powell at the home of Dr. Daniel Wills in 1699. They settled in Mansfield Township near the village of Georgetown. He had previously located 600 acres at Mattacopeny in Springfield Township near the village of Jacksonville but there is no evidence of his having settled on this tract. He sold it to his brother, Isaac "DeCow" in 1693 as he was then preparing to visit England and felt that his return was doubtful. Isaac was appointed Surveyor General of West Jersey in 1739 and is mentioned in Franklin's Autobiography as one of the Burlington County farmers "whose mind was congenial to his own." The Burlington County DeCous are direct descendants of Jacob and Elizabeth Newbold DeCou.

Engle—Four brothers arrived from England in 1683, three of whom settled in the neighborhood of Germantown.

Robert Engle or Ingle, as the name was spelled in some of the early records, married Joan Horne on Fifth month 4th, 1684 and settled on a 100 acre tract located on Mason's Run about one mile south of the village of Masonville at a place formerly known as Darnell's Mills. Robert Engle died in 1696 and the homestead was inherited by his son, John. The farm remained in the family until 1903, when the owner, Ezra Engle, now living in Moorestown, sold it to Jesse Jones.

EVANS—William Evans, carpenter of South Newinton, County of Oxen Wales and Jeane Hodge Evans, his wife, arrived at Burlington in 1682. They settled on the north side of Rancocas Creek on a 323 acre tract surveyed for him on Tenth month 23d of that year. This plantation was located about one mile below the forks and extended back to Mill Creek. In 1687 William Evans located "300 acres in Evesham Township at Mount Pray" (or Tray) afterwards called Evans' Mount and now known as Mount Laurel. William Evans died in 1689 and under the terms of his will dated "the second of sixth month called August" 1688, his son, Thomas, inherited the homestead on the Rancocas and his son, William, the farm at Mount Laurel. In 1691, 400 acres were surveyed for Thomas Evans "at the Indian town of Quoexin on one of the branches of Rankokus Creek." This farm was located near the village of Sandtown about one mile and a half south of Medford. He died in 1693, apparently not having moved to his new plantation as his will reads, "Thomas Evans of Willingborough." A 400 acre tract at "Coexing" was listed in the inventory of his estate. The plantation was inherited by his daughter, Sarah, who married William Harvey. Thomas Evans did not have any sons and his "great bible" was left to his brother, William, from whom it has descended from the oldest son of each generation to W. Henry Evans of Moorestown.

William Evans, brother of Thomas, married Elizabeth Hanke at Darby in Tenth month, 1693 ,and settled on the

farm at Mount Laurel inherited from his father. According to tradition they lived for a time in a cave near the Mount. The records of Mount Laurel (formerly Lower Evesham) Meeting, show that meetings were held in "William Evans' House" as early as 1694. On First month 10th, 1717, he conveyed 1 acre 32 perches "part of said lands" to the meeting to be held in trust for the use of "the said people called Quakers" and for a place "to bury their dead forever." These records seem to definitely fix the location of the farm.

In 1700, William Evans purchased 1000 acres lying between Marlton and Medford from Margaret Cook of Philadelphia. Part of this tract near Marlton is now owned by Joseph Stokes Evans, a direct descendant, who has the original Indian deed signed by King Himolin in 1701, showing that his ancestor also purchased the tract from the natives. The children of William and Elizabeth Evans were Thomas, Jane and John. Thomas married Esther Haines in 1715 and settled near Marlton on part of his father's plantation. John probably settled on the farm at Mount Laurel.

Elkinton—George Elkinton, the progenitor of the family in New Jersey and Philadelphia, arrived from Mollington, England on the "Kent" in 1677. He was a blacksmith and came over as an indentured servant to Dr. Daniel Wills to whom he was bound for four years. On 12th month 22nd, 1681, a tract containing 300 acres was surveyed for Daniel Wills, Jr. and George Elkinton on the northern side of Rancocas Creek. 100 acres of this farm was given to George Elkinton for his four years of faithful service. This farm was located on Mill Creek in the neighborhood of the village of Rancocas. In 1683, George Elkinton married Mary Bingham, who died within a few years leaving no issue. He married Mary Core, a widow, in 1688. Their children were Joseph, George, Joshua, Thomas, Mary and Elizabeth. Joshua died in infancy and as Josephs children were all girls, those bearing the name Elkinton trace their descent

either to George or Thomas. Thomas Elkinton of Moorestown, is a direct descendant.

FRENCH—Thomas and Jane Atkins French arrived from England in 1680. In 1684 he located a 600 acre tract on the northern side of Rancocas Creek between the Rancocas and Mill Creeks about two miles below the forks. In 1689 he purchased 621 acres on "Pomsocking" Creek next to Thomas Wallis and southward to a corner of Thomas Rodman's tract. This plantation lay to the north and west of Moorestown. A line drawn from the public school buildings at the corner of Church and Second Streets to the bridge over Pensauken Creek on the Haddonfield Road marks the approximate southern boundary of the French tract. Thomas French, Sr., apparently never settled on this plantation. In 1694 he deeded 300 acres of this tract to his son, Thomas, "in consideration of the naturall affection, goodwill and kindness which he hath and beareth to his beloved son." Thomas and Jane French had four sons, Richard, Thomas, Charles and John. Richard settled on a 460 acre tract in Mansfield Township and Thomas on the 300 acre plantation given to him by his father. The homestead was located on King's Highway in the neighborhood of Camden Pike and Pleasant Valley Avenue. Charles settled on the original tract on Rancocas Creek and John in Northampton Township. Charles French had a son Charles, who settled on a large farm near Fellowship, afterwards removing to Moorestown. Robert French, son of Thomas French, Jr., married Hannah Cattel in Tenth month, 1737, and located on Church Road about one mile north of Moorestown. Thomas French, the progenitor of the family in Burlington County, was a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" and was active in the affairs of the community in which he lived as well as an influential member of the Society of Friends. Wm. deR. Walter and Cooper French of Moorestown, are direct descendants of the pioneer, Thomas French.

GARDINER—Thomas Gardiner, tailor, and Elizabeth, his wife, arrived from Warminster, England, in 1678. Thomas Gardiner and John Woolston erected the first substantial homes in Burlington shortly after their arrival. The Friends' Meetings for worship were held in their homes prior to the erection of the first meeting house in 1683. The First Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends was held in Thomas Gardiner's home located at 228 High Street, on Sixth month 28th, 1681. Meeting records and family tradition show that William Penn attended Meeting in their home in 1683.

On Tenth month 2d, 1680, 100 acres in "town bounds" were surveyed for Thomas Gardiner. He located 204 acres of upland and meadow in Westhampton Township in Third month, 1685. Their children were Hester, who married John Wills, son of Dr. Daniel Wills, Thomas, John and Elizabeth. Thomas, Jr., moved to Newton Township shortly after his marriage to Hannah Mathews on Fourth month 25th, 1684. John married Sarah Righton in Tenth month, 19th, 1689. Dr. W. W. Gardiner, Lindley, Carlton and William Gardiner are descended from Joseph, son of John and Sarah Righton Gardiner, who married Catherine Ridgway in 1724. Thomas Gardiner was a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" and was one of the most influential men in the affairs of Burlington County, serving for many years as a member of the Assembly, Land Commissioner, Treasurer of the Province and member of the Governor's Council.

HOLLINSHEAD—John and Grace Hollinshead arrived from England in 1678 and according to family tradition first settled near Salem, New Jersey. They evidently moved to Burlington in about 1679 as John Hollinshead purchased a town lot containing 30 acres in that village on September 8th, 1680 "over against the lower end of Burlington Island[6]

[6]The Site of Burlington City was originally known as Burlington Island. A small stream connecting the Delaware River with Assiscunk Creek in the southern part of the town at high tide completely surrounded it.

along a creek around it." A memorandum of deed dated Eleventh month 14th, 1682, records that Thomas Ollive of Wellingborough near Burlington, haberdasher, sold to John Hollinshead of Burlington, merchant, a wharf lot in that village. This seems to indicate clearly that the Hollinsheads lived for a time in Burlington.

I regret that I cannot definitely state when John and Grace Hollinshead settled on the Hollinshead ancestral tract on the south side of Rancocas Creek above Bridgeboro. Thomas Bean, who lived in that neighborhood for many years, stated in a paper published many years ago that John Hollinshead located 550 acres on the Rancocas Creek in 1678. This is undoubtedly approximately correct. The record of his first survey is not given in Revell's Book of Surveys for the reason that the first two pages recording the surveys prior to 1680 are missing. Under date of Fourth month, 1689, there is a record of a survey for John Hollinshead "along Rancocas Creek between Thomas Kendall, John Rodman and Thomas Hooton of 1150 acres including his former settlement." This tract was located on the South side of Rancocas Creek about two miles above Bridgeboro and extended back to the junction of the Mt. Holly and Borton Landing Roads about one mile east of Moorestown. The original home stood on the bank of the creek at a place known in the early days as Hollinshead's Ferry. The old Salem Road crossed the creek near the homestead. Their children were William, Robert (died in infancy), John, Hugh, Charles (died in infancy) and one child whose name is not known and who probably died at a very early age. William married Elizabeth, daughter of John and Elizabeth Adams and settled on an estate of 450 acres known as "Bear Garden." This was part of his father's estate and was located in the neighborhood of East Moorestown. John, Jr. married Agnes Hackney in 1693 and settled in the old homestead at Hollinshead's Ferry. John Hollinshead, Sr., was one of the first rangers of Burlington County, also served as Land Commissioner, Justice for Bur-

lington County and member of the West Jersey Assembly. Ellwood and Thornton Hollinshead, Mrs. Robert T. Evans and the Misses Martha and Mabel Hollinshead are direct descendants. The Hollinshead family trace their English descent to the Eleventh Century.

Haines—Richard and Margaret Haines arrived on the "Amity" from Northamptonshire, England, on Fourth month 23d, 1682. Richard Haines died and his son, Joseph, was born during the passage to America. Their children were John, Richard, William, Thomas, Mary, Joseph and Dorothy. John Haines, who came over two years before the arrival of his parents married Esther Borton, daughter of John and Ann Borton, the founders of the Borton family in Burlington County on Tenth month, 10th, 1684, and settled on the Rancocas near Lumberton. Richard married Mary Carlisle, a daughter of an Indian Sachem in 1699 and settled on the Rancocas near Lumberton. According to family tradition, they lived for a while in a cave in the bank of the creek. Richard married Mary Carlisle, a daughter of an Indian Sachem in 1699 and settled in Evesham Township. William married Sarah Payne in 1695 and Thomas married Elizabeth Austin in 1692 and settled in Northampton Township. All bearing the name Haines now living in or near Moorestown are descended from Richard and Margaret Haines. The Haines family is a very old English family, whose lineage can be traced back to the Sixth Century. The name was originally spelled Haynes.

Heulings—William and Abraham Heulings, sons of Walter and Judith Heulings of Gloucestershire, England, arrived at Burlington in 1678. William married Dorothy Eves, daughter of Thomas Eves, the progenitor of the family in Burlington County on Ninth month 11th, 1680 and settled on the Delaware near Delanco. There is a record of a survey of 120 acres for William "Hulines" in March, 1684, on the Delaware River "joining his own." In December, 1684, 240 acres were surveyed for him "at the Vale of Easham" (Evesham) not far from Evesboro. They evi-

dently settled on this tract as George Keith, a missionary of the Church of England refers in his diary to a meeting held at the home of William Heulings in the neighborhood of Colestown. Abraham Heulings, the ancestor of Mrs. William D. Lippincott and Lloyd Heulings of Moorestown, married Esther English at the home of her parents in Byberry, Pennsylvania, on Sixth month 3d, 1686. They doubtless settled on the 81 acre farm surveyed "for Abraham Hulin at the mouth of Rankokus River adjoining William Hulines dwelling on July 26th, 1682." This farm was located where Delanco now stands. In 1688 he purchased 225 acres on the Delaware which joined Howard G. Taylor's farm above Riverton on the west. This homestead remained in the family until recent years. The Heulings brothers, both of whom were signers of the "Concessions and Agreements" became large owners of land in Chester and Evesham Townships and were active in the affairs of the communities in which they lived.

HOOTON—Thomas Hooton, tallow chandler, of the Parish of St. Ann, Blackfriars, England, who arrived in Philadelphia prior to 1680, seems to have been the first of the family to emigrate to America. On Eleventh month 6th, 1676, he purchased a share of land in West Jersey from William Penn *et al,* portions of which were conveyed to Friends who were interested in migrating to the colony. Thomas Hooton had a son and grandson named Thomas, whom he designated in his will dated Eleventh month 7th, 1688, as "Thomas the younger and Thomas the youngest." Although Thomas Hooton, Sr. owned large tracts of land in West Jersey, neither he nor his son, Thomas, apparently ever settled in Burlington County, as their wills are both dated at Philadelphia. Thomas Hooton, Sr., bequeathed 225 acres of his land in West Jersey to his nephew, Thomas, son of his brother William, and 300 acres to his grandson, designated the youngest, being the remainder of the "last parcel of land that fell to me in the last taking up in the said Province." Five hundred acres were surveyed for

Thomas Hooton on "Rankokus River at a small run over against Thomas Ollive" on Eleventh month 15th, 1682. This plantation was located on the south side of the Creek a little above Bridgeboro and extended back to the Westfield-Hartford Road about one-half mile east of Moorestown.

The Burlington County branch of the family is descended from Thomas Hooton, nephew of the Thomas who settled in Philadelphia. He arrived at Burlington on the "Martha" early in the Fall of 1677 and on the 29th of the Eighth month of that year he wrote to his wife in England stating that he was staying with Thomas Ollive and being well pleased with the country encouraged her to join him. She settled her affairs in England as promptly as possible and shortly afterwards sailed for America. According to family records he married Mary Lippincott, daughter of John Lippincott of Shrewsbury on Eighth month 28th, 1697. The Shrewsbury Meeting Record of this marriage reads "Thomas Hooton of near Burlington and Mary Lippincott living at Shrewsbury." If he was the Thomas Hooton who came over on the "Martha" and not his son, as I am inclined to believe, Mary Lippincott must have been his second wife.

I am convinced that Thomas Hooton, the pioneer, first settled on the 500 acre tract on the Rancocas above Bridgeboro, surveyed in 1682. This Hooton plantation is referred to in a deed dated April 4th, 1686, in which the boundaries of the John Rodman tract were given. The following record of a survey dated in Eighth month, 1688, would indicate that he had a son, Thomas. The record reads as follows:—"100 acres on Rancocas Creek and 500 acres backwards. The first between old Thomas Hooton and John Hollinshead and the other between John Rodman, John Hollinshead and Thomas Rodman." The latter tract lay south and southeast of Moorestown and remained in the Hooton family until quite recent times. The children of Thomas and Mary Lippincott Hooton were William, John,

Thomas, Mary, Ann, Elizabeth, Samuel and Benjamin. William married Ann Sharp at the Friends' Meeting House at Evesham (Mount Laurel) on Eleventh month 21st, 1730. Elizabeth H. Richie, David, Joseph H. and William H. Roberts, Mrs. Horace Roberts and Mrs. James M. Stokes of Moorestown, are their descendants.

LIPPINCOTT—Richard and Abigail Lippincott arrived from Plymouth, Devonshire, England, in 1639 and settled at Dorchester near Boston. They returned to England in 1653 where they joined the Society of Friends. Richard Lippincott was imprisoned for preaching "that Christ was the Word of God and the Scriptures the declaration of the Mind of God." They returned to America in 1663 and settled in Rhode Island. In 1669 or possibly a year or two earlier they moved to Shrewsbury, New Jersey. Richard Lippincott was the largest share holder of a group of Friends who took up a large tract of land in that section and migrated from New England probably because of the persecutions which they suffered by the Puritans. Their children were Remembrance, John, Abigail, Restore, Freedom, Increase, Jacob and Preserve.

The Burlington County Lippincotts are descended from Restore and Freedom. Restore married Hannah Shattock of Boston and settled in Northampton Township and Freedom married Mary Curtis at Burlington in 1680 and settled in Willingborough. The following memorandum of deed dated May 8th, 1684, seems to indicate clearly that Freedom and Mary first settled on the northern side of the Creek and not on the southern where Bridgeboro now stands as stated in several old accounts:—"Thomas Ollive, merchant, sold to Freedom Lippincott, yeoman, both of Willingborough 200 acres in West Jersey." The record of this survey reads, "for Freedom Lippincott 200 acres on Northampton River and Mill Creek along Thomas Eves' land including six acres of meadow land on said river." This tract was located on the north side of the Rancocas about one mile above the road leading from Bridgeboro to Burlington.

In Second month, 1687, he located 288 8/9 acres near "Pomsokin" (Pensauken) Creek in the neighborhood of Evesboro. His son, Freedom, settled on this tract. Thomas Lippincott, who married Mary Haines on Tenth month 19th, 1711, purchased 1034 acres of land in Chester Township (Chester formerly included Cinnaminson Township) extending from Pensauken Creek to Swedes Run which empties into the Delaware about two miles above Riverton. The Lippincotts are one of the oldest and most influential families in Burlington County and can trace their English descent back to the Eleventh Century.

Leeds—Thomas Leeds, a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" with wife and three sons, William, Daniel and Thomas, arrived from England in 1676 and settled in East Jersey near Shrewsbury. His wife died shortly after their arrival in New Jersey and on Eighth month 6th, 1678, he married Margaret Collier of Marcus Hook "on ye Delaware River" at Burlington Meeting. Daniel, the second son of Thomas Leeds and his first wife, was the progenitor of the Leeds family in Burlington County. He was married when he came to America but his wife also dying shortly afterwards he married Ann Stacy at Burlington on Second month 21st, 1681. The Meeting Record reads, "Daniel Leeds late of Shrewsbury, East Jersey, cooper" indicating he had already settled in the neighborhood of Burlington. Daniel Leeds purchased a tract of land from Robert Stacy on Tenth month 21st, 1680, located near Springfield (now Jacksonville) in Springfield Township on the south side of Assiscunk Creek and doubtless settled on this plantation. He afterwards added 200 acres to his holdings at this place. Ann Stacy Leeds died on Twelfth month, 3d, 1681 and two years later he married Dorothy Young.

Daniel Leeds was an active surveyor and in 1696 made the first map of Burlington City. He served as a member of the Governor's Council under Lord Cornbury, the first Governor of the Province, after the surrender of East and West Jersey to the Crown in 1702. He was appointed Sur-

veyor General in 1681 and served until 1710. He was also a member of the Assembly from Burlington in 1682 and Justice of the Supreme Court in 1709. He was mentioned as an astrologer by Franklin in his Poor Richard Almanac for 1735 and Allibone referred to him as the first author in the Provinces south of New York. The Moorestown Leeds and Henry W. and Samuel P. of Atlantic City, formerly of Westfield, are direct descendants of Japhet and Deborah Smith Leeds. Japhet was the eldest of the eight children of Daniel and Dorothy Young Leeds.

MATLACK—William Matlack, carpenter, from Cropwell Bishop Nottinghampshire, arrived on the "Kent" in 1677. He came over as a servant to Thomas Ollive, one of the Commissioners to whom he was indentured for his passage for four years. The Kent anchored down the river near the mouth of Raccoon Creek and the Commissioners immediately proceeded up the river in row boats to the present site of Burlington. Family tradition says that William Matlack accompanied Thomas Ollive in the first boat and that he was the first man to jump ashore when they arrived at the site of Burlington. William Matlack married Mary, sister of Timothy Hancock of Brayles, Warwickshire, who came over in the "Paradice" in 1682. On November 14th of that year, shortly after their marriage, a 100 acre farm was surveyed for him on the north branch of Pensauken Creek also 100 acres for Timothy and Rachel Hancock which joined his plantation on the west. This tract was granted to William Matlack by Thomas Ollive in recognition of his four years of faithful service. In 1687 he purchased 100 acres adjoining his original survey on the east for twelve pounds and in 1695 he also bought the Hancock farm, thus increasing the homestead farm to 300 acres. It is interesting to note that some of this land is still in the possession of the Matlack family.

The original homestead stood on the bank of Pensauken Creek where the Club House of the Valley Brook Country Club, formerly the residence of Charles C. Haines, now

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Whitall Nicholson. The eastern end of this beautiful old Colonial residence was erected about 1790.

Harmony Hall erected in 1753 now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Freeman, 607 Chester Avenue.

stands. The central part of this old house was erected by Jeremiah Matlack, the grandson of the pioneer, in about 1753. The children of William and Rachel Matlack were John, George, Mary, William, Richard, Joseph, Timothy, Jane and Sarah. William Matlack, Sr. purchased 1000 acres in Waterford Township, Gloucester County (Gloucester County formerly included Camden County) in 1701 and his sons, with the exception of William, settled in that neighborhood. William, Jr. married Mary Antrim and settled on the old homestead. Samuel R., George and Miss Alice H. Matlack of Moorestown and Chalkley and William, of near Moorestown, are descended from William and Mary Antrim Matlack. The Matlacks have been active and influential in the affairs of old Chester Township from the earliest days.

PHARO—James and Ann Pharo, from Lincolnshire, arrived at Burlington on the "Shield" in 1678. The Shield was the first immigrant vessel to sail up the river as far as Burlington City and according to local tradition it was moored to the old Buttonwood still standing on the bank of the river near Wood Street. On September 13, 1680, James Pharo purchased 100 acres "along the Delaware River adjoining Thomas Wood." This evidently was in the neighborhood of Bordentown, as an early survey for Thomas Wood shows that he settled on Crosswicks Creek which empties into the Delaware a little above that town. In April, 1688, James Pharo purchased 181 acres on Black's Creek which flows into the Delaware River below Bordentown.

The children of James and Ann Pharo were Jarvis, Amos and Ann. Jarvis married Elizabeth Willits and settled in Springfield Township afterwards moving to Tuckerton early in the Eighteenth Century. A number of their descendants still live in that community. Eugene M. Pharo of Moorestown, is a direct descendant.

POWELL—Robert and Prudence Powell of LeGrand Street, London, arrived on the "Kent" in 1677. On Septem-

ber 28th, 1680 he purchased 30 acres on the Assiscunck Creek near Burlington and on January 7th, 1681, 150 acres on the north side of Mill Creek which empties into the Rancocas a little above the road leading from Bridgeboro to Burlington. In July, 1693, he purchased 200 acres on the northern side of Rancocas Creek near the forks and next to the plantation of Dr. Daniel Wills. Robert Powell was one of the signers of the "Concessions and Agreements" and was active in the affairs of Burlington County. Miss Anna E. Powell and her brothers, Lawrence and Joseph, children of the late Dr. B. B. Powell, are direct descendants.

PANCOAST—John and Elizabeth Pancoast arrived from England in 1680. They located 162 acres "at the mouth of the east branch of Assiscunck Creek adjoining Thomas Barton" on April 5th, 1682. They apparently first settled on a 100 acre tract surveyed on October 24th, 1680 for "John Pancas against Mattacopeny on the north side of Assiscunck Creek." These farms were located in the neighborhood of Jacksonville. They had two sons, Joseph and William, who married Thomasin and Hannah Scattergood, daughters of Thomas and Hannah Scattergood, who settled in Mansfield Township near Columbus at a very early date. The Pancoast families of Moorestown and vicinity are direct descendants of these brothers. John Pancoast, the pioneer, was one of the signers of the "Concessions and Agreements" and later served as a member of the West Jersey Assembly.

ROBERTS—John and Sarah Roberts of Overton, Northamptonshire, arrived on the "Kent" in 1677. The Kent was the first ship to bring English settlers to Burlington County and for some unknown reason anchored at the mouth of Raccoon Creek about opposite Chester. Before leaving England, John Roberts purchased one-sixteenth of a share of land in West Jersey from Thomas Ollive as shown by the following record dated Twelfth month 26th, 1676-7. "Thomas Ollive of Wellingborough, County of Northampton, haberdasher, to John Roberts of 'Ourston' same County,

yeoman, for one-sixteenth of a share of West Jersey bought of William Penn *et al,* January 23d, 1676-7." The price paid for this tract which contained approximately 400 acres was Ten Pounds Sterling. In 1682 (no month given in the record) he purchased 68 acres on the northern side of the Rancocas about one mile above the road leading from Bridgeboro to Burlington. The following deed dated Eleventh month 14th, 1682, indicates that they settled on this tract. "John Roberts inhabitant upon Rancocas Creek, yeoman, to John Hollinshead for a wharf lot in Burlington belonging to the one-sixteenth of a share bought of William Penn *et al* on January 23d, 1676-7."

On November 14th, 1682, Daniel Leeds surveyed 267 acres for John Roberts "at the Indian town of Penisoakin between the two branches of Cimsissinck Creek.[7] They apparently did not settle on this tract before 1683 or possibly 1684, as the Burlington Meeting record of the birth of their daughter, Hannah, reads "Hannah, daughter of John and Sarah Roberts of Northampton River, born in Sixth month, 1683." The Roberts Monument on the southern side of Camden Pike just over the bridge across the north branch of Pensauken Creek, marks the approximate location of their first home. Family tradition says they lived for a time in a cave on the bank of the creek. John Roberts died in 1695 and was buried in the old burying ground on the Pensauken a little above the Club House of the Valley Brook Country Club which was formerly the home of Charles C. Haines. His widow, Sarah Roberts, a woman of exceptionally strong character and executive ability, died in about 1712. Their children were John, Sarah, Mary and Hannah. John, the only son, who married Mary Elkinton, daughter of George and Mary Core Elkinton, the founders of the Elkinton family of Burlington

[7]Cimsissinck sometimes spelled Simsissinck, was the Indian name for Pensauken Creek. The word Pensauken which is spelled in many ways in the early records was the name of an Indian tribe who lived between the two branches of the creek, probably on the Roberts plantation.

County and Philadelphia, inherited the plantation. David, Joseph H., William H., and Horace Roberts of Moorestown as well as practically all other families in this neighborhood bearing the name Roberts, are directly descended from John and Sarah Roberts.

ROGERS—John Rogers arrived from England in 1678. He married Mary Scholey at Burlington Meeting on Eighth month 31st, 1680, and settled on the Delaware River in Nottingham (now Hamilton) Township, a little above Bordentown. Mary Rogers died in 1692 and John in 1700. His will, which was proved on March 30, 1700, reads, "John Rogers of Nottingham, Burlington County." They left four minor children, John, Mary, Joseph and Deborah. John, the oldest child was thirteen years of age at the time of his father's death. Samuel and John Bunting of Crosswicks were appointed their guardians and it was stipulated in the will that they were to receive one year of schooling after which John was to be apprenticed to a blacksmith and Joseph to a weaver or tailor. It is said that Joseph married an Indian maid and settled on the homestead near Bordentown.

I am of the opinion, however, that the Moorestown branch of the family is not descended from John and Mary Rogers. A genealogical sketch of the Moorestown branch possessed by Mrs. Franklin W. D'Olier, a direct descendant, and compiled by Elizabeth B. Satterthwaite of Trenton, a genealogist of wide experience, traces their descent to Thomas Rogers, who came over on the Mayflower. John Rogers, a descendant of Thomas, married Elizabeth Twinning in 1669 and settled at Eastham, Cape Cod. He bought a large tract of land in Burlington County, according to her account, which he deeded to his son, William. A number of Quaker families left New England at this time, some of which settled in New Jersey. William was one of this group and settled on Rancocas Creek. This record shows that John Rogers purchased 150 acres in Evesham Township in 1725 from John Middleton and in 1727 transferred

it to his son, William. The record is not clear at this point as it does not state that John Rogers came to New Jersey with his son William.

Mrs. Walter W. Gardiner of Moorestown, a direct descendant, has the original deed dated April 27th, 1725, which states, "John Rogers of the Town and County of Burlington" purchased 150 acres in Evesham Township from John Middleton for "one hundred and fifty pounds lawful money of America." The question naturally arises, who was John Rogers of Burlington? The records show that "John Rogers" settled near Burlington prior to 1700 and was an active member of old St. Mary's Church in 1703. This could not have been the son of the John Rogers who settled near Bordentown in 1680 as he would have been a mere lad seventeen years of age at that time. I am of the opinion that the Burlington John Rogers was the father of William who, according to Miss Satterthwaite, settled on Rancocas Creek.

The farm purchased by John Rogers from John Middleton in 1725 and sold to his son, William, in 1727, is located about one mile east of Mount Laurel. The present homestead on this old plantation is built of native sandstone and was erected in 1767.

Rudderow—John Rudderow arrived at Philadelphia from England about 1680. He was a surveyor and also had considerable knowledge of law. After remaining in the neighborhood of Philadelphia for a few years he decided to return to England but the unexpected arrival at Philadelphia of Robert Stiles and his sister, Lucy, immediately altered his plans. He and Lucy Stiles were afterwards married and settled on a large plantation between the two branches of Pensauken Creek not far from Fork Landing. The original survey is dated Tenth month, 1684 and calls for 650 acres which were surveyed in the names of John Clark and John Rudderow. 475 acres of this tract located at the forks of the creek were later resurveyed for John Rudderow. John and Lucy Stiles Rudderow's children were

Mary, Rebecca, Hannah, Ann, Sarah, John and three whose names were not recorded and who undoubtedly died in infancy. John, Jr. married Elizabeth Hollinshead and was the ancestor of those bearing the name Rudderow now living in the neighborhood of Moorestown. The Rudderows were active in the affairs of Chester Township which formerly included the present township of Moorestown.

STOKES—Thomas Stokes of Lower Shadwell and Mary Bernard of Stepney, were married in London in Tenth month 30th, 1668. They came to America in the ship "Kent" in June, 1677. They proceeded up the river with the Commissioners and other immigrants to the present site of Burlington City and a few years later settled on a tract of land containing 162½ acres on the northern side of Rancocas Creek a little above the forks. This plantation was surveyed for his brother, John Stokes, on Tenth month 2d, 1683 and was part of the tract purchased by him from Thomas Hooton in 1678. John conveyed this farm to his brother, Thomas, in May, 1701, for "five shillings lawful money of England and the natural love and affection which I do have and beare unto my brother Thomas living at or near Burlington in West Jersey." It is evident that John Stokes never came to America.

The children of Thomas and Mary Stokes were Sarah, Mary, John, Joseph and Thomas. John married Elizabeth Green, known in family tradition as "Lady Green" in 1712 and Joseph married first Judith Lippincott, daughter of Freedom and Mary Lippincott, and second, Ann Ashard Haines, widow of Nehemiah Haines. Thomas married first, Deliverance Horner and second, Rachel Wright. John and Elizabeth Green Stokes settled on a plantation located further down the creek which they named "Stokingham." Joseph purchased a tract containing 200 acres in Chester Township near Westfield in 1708.

Samuel Stokes, son of Joseph and Judith, when a young man, purchased 300 acres in Chester Township upon which he built his first home. He married Hannah Hinchman in

1741 and settled on this plantation. In 1753 he purchased 130 acres on the road leading from Moorestown to Riverton near the former village upon which he erected a fine house which he named "Harmony Hall." The original building is now part of the fine old colonial residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Freeman, 607 Chester Avenue. John Hinchman Stokes, son of Samuel and Hannah Stokes was born in "Harmony Hall" in 1764. He studied medicine under Dr. Thomas Parke of Philadelphia and began to practice in Moorestown in 1786.

Dr. Joseph Stokes, President of the Burlington County Trust Company, is descended from Joseph and Judith Stokes on his father's side and from John and Elizabeth Stokes on his mother's. Bispham, Cheston and James Stokes are descended from Joseph and Judith and Charles W. Stokes from Thomas and Deliverance Stokes who settled in Waterford Township.

Stiles—Robert Stiles arrived from England about 1682 and settled for a few years in Philadelphia. In 1695 he purchased 415 acres on the north branch of Pensauken Creek about two miles West of Moorestown from Charles Reade of Philadelphia. I am convinced, however, that this survey included a former survey as he undoubtedly settled on the Pensauken at an earlier date. The early records of Chester Township show that he was active in the affairs of the community as early as 1692. His first survey was probably in 1684 about the time when John Rudderow settled on the creek. Gabriel Thomas, who published "An Historical and Geographical Account of Pennsylvania and West Jersey" in 1698, refers to Robert Stiles as follows:—"The trade of Gloucester County consists chiefly in pitch, tar and rosin, the latter of which is made by Robert Stiles, an excellent artist in that sort of work for he delivers it clear as gum arabic." Robert Stiles married Priscilla Howell, daughter of Thomas and Catherine Howell. Their children were Robert, John and Martha. Robert married Sarah Rudderow, John died in infancy and Martha married

Thomas Coles. The Moorestown branch of the Stiles family is descended from Robert and Sarah Rudderow Stiles. The Stiles farm was located in Maple Shade on the north branch of Pensauken Creek a little below Camden Pike.

WILKINS—Thomas and Susanna Wilkins from Lestershire, England, arrived at Philadelphia about 1678. Family tradition says they lived for a while in a cave on the bank of the Delaware. A deed recorded March 26th, 1690, shows they moved to Burlington County at an early date and lived for a time in Burlington City. This deed reads as follows:—"Thomas Perkins to Thomas Wilkins, both of Burlington, husbandmen, for 100 acres on Mason's Run west of the grantor." In Tenth month, 1691, Thomas Wilkins purchased 200 additional acres adjoining his home property. This plantation was located in the neighborhood of Kirby's mills. Their children were Rebecca, Mary, Hannah and Thomas. Some of their descendants are still living in the neighborhood as well as in Moorestown.

WILLS—Dr. Daniel Wills and Mary, his second wife, arrived from England on the "Kent" in 1677 and settled for a time in Burlington. He was one of the Commissioners appointed by the Proprietors of West Jersey to purchase land from the Indians and establish a form of Government under the "Concessions and Agreements." On December 21st, 1681, he purchased 500 acres on the Northern side of Rancocas Creek a little below the forks. The road leading from Centreton to Rancocas passes through the edge of this tract. At the same time he purchased an adjoining tract on the north containing 300 acres, 200 acres of which were for his son, Daniel, and 100 for George Elkinton. This tract was doubtless given to George Elkinton in return for his four years of faithful service. The Friends' burying ground, near which originally stood the first Friends' Meet-House, is located on the Wills tract. Daniel Wills's children were as follows:—James, Daniel, John, Samuel, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and Ann. These children with the ex-

ception of Ann, were born in England. John Wills inherited the farm and lived there until his death in 1746. At the death of his father in 1698, he also inherited 621 acres "lying in the forks of the river," 242 acres of which he transferred to the children of an Indian King named Ossollorohen and his brothers, Teannis and Moolis. John Wills was an ardent friend of the Indians and labored faithfully to ameliorate their condition in Burlington County. Dr. Daniel Wills, who was a direct descendant of Alfred the Great, was one of the most influential men in the early history of Burlington County. He was one of the West Jersey Commissioners, a signer of the "Concessions and Agreements" and served for many years on the Governor's Council and in the West Jersey Assembly. He was undoubtedly the first practising physician in the County. There are many descendants of Dr. Wills in Burlington County at the present time. Joshua S. Wills of Medford, C. Walter and J. Harvey Borton of Moorestown, whose mother was Susan Wills, are direct descendants.

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